

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

BF
5168
254.2

Br 5168.254.2

Harvard College Library



BOUGHT FROM GIFTS
FOR THE PURCHASE OF ENGLISH
HISTORY AND LITERATURE

"SUBSCRIPTION OF 1916"

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE

HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES,

IMPROVEMENTS, &c.

OF THE

PARISH OF BROMLEY,

KENT.

BROMLEY:

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM BECKLEY,

MARKET PLACE.

1832.

Digitized by Google

L.B.5163.254.2

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 15 1917
SUBSCRIPTION OF 1916

Farrar, Charles

Printed by H. Richardson, Stockwell Street, Greenwich.

Digitized by Google

TO THE

RIGHT REV. GEORGE MURRAY, D.D.,

LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

My Lord,

The Manor and Lordship of Bromley having been in the possession of your Lordship and your Right Rev. Predecessors, the Bishops of Rochester, from the earliest period of our history, there is no person to whom this description of Bromley and its neighbourhood could be dedicated with so much propriety as to your Lordship.

As the book, however, is the attempt of a very inexperienced Writer to render himself ser-

Digitized by Google

viceable in his leisure hours, there probably may be many faults in it, but the Author is persuaded, from the acknowledged good-nature and kindness of your Lordship, that he could find no person more inclined than your Lordship to pardon his involuntary errors.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

With the greatest respect,

Your Lordship's most obliged

and obedient Servant,

CHARLES FREEMAN.

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Etymology	1
History of the Manor	2
The Palace	11
Description of the Town and its improvements	16
Improvements in the Town, &c.	19
Justices in the Division and their residences	21
Post Office	22
The Market	23
The Fairs	ibid.
Boarding Schools	24
Meeting House	ibid.
Stage Coaches	25
Bromley Common, the enclosure	26
Southborough	30
Residences of the principal Gentry in the Neighbourhood	32
The Parish Church	34
Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction	58
List of Rectors and Curates	61
Population, &c.	65
Charity School	67
Charity Sermons	72
Savings Bank	77
Benevolent Institution	79
The College	83
Account of the Manor of Sundridge	93
Simpsons	96
Plaistow	101
Freelands	103
Wigmore	104
Farwig Place	107
Martin's Hill	109
Conclusion	110

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

PREFACE.

IF a perusal of the instructive page of history convey to us intellectual pleasure and profit, doubtless there will be found, in a description of the town or place in which we live, and especially where we first beheld the light, circumstances far more interesting, and productive of greater pleasure, than the most noble actions, engraved in the history of nations, from their remoteness of time and place, can possibly excite: for while it is a delightful employment to review the exploits of our ancestors, and to discover the various changes that have transpired in a whole nation, yet we cannot feel that genuine interest for any transactions (however laudable and important) which have been effected in days that are gone, as for events, though of very inferior moment, that occur in the time in which we live, or in scenes among which we dwell, and of which we are spectators.

Digitized by Google

To furnish the history of Bromley to the present period, is the object of the following pages: nothing of the kind, the Writer believes, has appeared since the year 1815, when Mr. Dunkin published his "Outlines of the History of Bromley." The various improvements that have taken place in Bromley and its neighbourhood, since the date of the above work, have not hitherto been presented to the public; to afford, therefore, an account of those improvements, together with the history and antiquities of Bromley, the pen of the Writer is especially directed. And should his humble attempt contribute in the least possible manner to the object he has in view, he will feel more than compensated for the care he has employed in rendering the following pages as perfect as circumstances would allow.

BROMLEY.
April 4th, 1832.

Digitized by Google

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

Acton, Mr. John, *Bromley.*
Aillard, Mr. Henry, *St. Mary Cray.*
A. B., *Bromley.*
A. K.
Allen, Mr. George, *Bromley.*
Allen, Mr. Jeremiah, *Ditto.*
Atkinson, Mrs., *Beckenham.*

Bexley, the Right Hon. Lord.
Baker, Mrs., *Bromley.*
Baldwin, C. P., Esq., M. P.
Banks, Mr., *Chislehurst.*
Barham, Mr., *Farnborough.*
Barrett, Mr. Henry, *Bromley,*
Barton, Mr. T. S., *Hayes.*
Bateman, Mr. William, *Bromley.*
Bath, Mr., *Ditto.*
Bath, Mr., *Beckenham.*
B. E.

Digitized by Google

Beezley, Mrs., *Bromley.*
Berens, Joseph, Esq., *Kevington.*
Boyd, Walter, Esq., *Plaistow Lodge.*
Boyd, R. D., Esq., *Plaistow.*
Boyd, Mathew, Esq., *Bromley.*
Bright, Mr., *Chislehurst.*
Brooks, Mr., *Chelsfield.*
Burley, Mrs., *Bromley.*

Campbell, William, Esq., *Blenden Hall,* (2 copies.)
Chapman, James, Esq., *St. Paul's Cray Park.*
Chapman, James, Jun., Esq., *Ditto.*
Charman, Mr., *Bromley.*
Churcher, Mr. John, *Ditto.*
Clark, F. H., Esq.
Colegate, Mr. John, *Orpington.*
Collett, Miss, *Preston.*
Collinett, Mr., *Bromley.*
Cooper, Mr. John, *Ditto.*
Cordery, Mr. George, *Ditto.*
Cottingham, Edwin, Esq., *Bexley.*
Coulter, Mr. John, *Bromley.*
Cracklow, Henry, Esq., *Beckenham.*
Crick, Mr., *Hayes.*
Cronk, Mrs., *Beckenham.*

Dyke, Sir P. H., Bart., *East Hall.*
Dawson, the Rev. F., *Chislehurst.*
Davies, the Rev. R., *Bexley.*

Digitized by Google

Davis, Mr. James P., *Bromley.*
Denman, John, Esq., *Ditto.*
Dobinson, Mr., *Orpington.*
Dunmall, Mr. R., *Ditto.*
Durling, Mr., *Bromley.*

Eaton, Mr. C., *Bromley.*
Edwards, Mr., *West Wickham.*
Erskine, Mrs., *Bromley.*
Evans, the Rev. David, *Bexley.*

Farnborough, the Right Hon. Lord.
Farnborough, the Right Hon. Lady.
Farnaby, the Rev. Sir C. F., *Wickham.*
F. D., *Bromley.*
Ferguson, Mrs., *Ditto.*
F. M., *Ditto.*
Fortescue, the Hon. Mathew, *Beckenham.*
Fricker, Mr. Edward, *Bexley.*
Frith, the Rev. C., *Ditto.*
Fulcher, Mr. Edward, *St. Mary Cray.*

Goddard, the Venerable Archdeacon, D. D.
Gibbons, Mr., *Beckenham.*
Gibbons, Mr. William, *Bromley.*
Glassup, Mr., *Orpington.*
Goodhart, Emanuel, Esq., *Langley Park.*
Gould, Mr. James, *Bromley.*
Green, Mr. R., *Ditto.*
Greenslade, Mr., *Orpington.*

Digitized by Google

Hall, John, Esq., *Dartford.*
Hards, Mr., *St. Mary Cray.*
Hardstone, Mr., *Ditto.*
Harenc, Mrs., *Chislehurst.*
Harris, James, Esq., *Chelsfield.*
Harris, James, Esq., *Orpington.*
Haydon, Mr., *Bromley.*
Head, Mrs., *Ditto.*
Holmes, Mr. H., *Hayes.*
Homer, Mr. Samuel, *Beckenham.*
Humphrey, Mr. John, *Bromley.*
Hutchell, Mr., *St. Mary Cray.*

Ibbetson, Mrs., *Bromley.*
Ibbetson, Mr. I. F. *Ditto.*
Ilott, Thomas, Esq., *Ditto.*
Ilott, William, Esq., *Ditto.*
Inpous, Mr., *Ditto.*
Isard
~~Inpous~~, Mr. John, *Ditto.*
Isard, Mr. R., *Ditto.*

James, Mr.
Jay, Mr., *Bromley.*
Jenkins, Mrs., *Ditto.*
Jenner, Miss, *Chislehurst.*
Jewell, Mrs., *St. Mary Cray.*
Jones, Hannibal, Esq.
Jones, Evans, Esq.

Digitized by Google

Kadwell, Mr. Charles, *Greenwich.*
Kirkpatrick, George, Esq., *Holly Dale, Keston.*
Knowles, Mr. James, *Bromley.*

Lane, Mr., *Orpington.*
Latter, R. B., Esq., *Bromley.*
Lasslett, Mr., *Orpington.*
Lawrence, Mr. George, Jun., *St. Mary Cray.*
Leigh, Miss, *Bexley.*
Levens, Mr. S., *Beckenham.*
Lunn, Mr. Richard, *Bromley.*

Morland, Lady Caroline, *Hayes.*
Marchial, Mr., *Plaistow.*
Martin, Mrs., *Chislehurst.*
Matthews, Mr., *Bromley.*
Matthews, Mrs. Esther, *Ditto.*
Merrett, Mr. William, *Greenwich.*
M. M., *Bromley.*
Mosyer, T. Esq., *Orpington.*
Moysey, Abel, Esq., *Bromley.*
Mumford, Miss, *Hayes.*

Nash, Mr. Benjamin, *Bromley.*
Newell, Rev. J. E., *Ditto.*
Norman, J. W., Esq., *Ditto.*

Ogle, J. E., Esq., *Bromley.*

Digitized by Google

Palmer, T. C., Esq., *Bromley.*
Parnell, D. W., Esq., *Halsted.*
Pawley, Mr. W., *Bromley.*
Pennington, Mr., *St. Paul's Cray.*
Plancke, Mrs., *Bromley.*
Pool, Mrs., *Orpington.*
Potts, Charles, Esq., *Freeland House.*
Pritchard, Thomas, Esq., *Foot's Cray.*
Pritchard, Miss, *Bromley.*

Rochester, Right Hon. Lord Bishop of.
Raikes, Miss, *York Terrace, Regent's Park.*
Ranford, Mr. S. H., *St. Mary Cray.*
Ranford, Mrs., *Ditto.*
Ranford, Mr. H. B., *Ditto.*
Rawes, W. T., Esq., *Bromley.*
Ray, Mr., *Ditto.*
Reader, Mr.
Revell, Mr., *Beckenham.*
Rice, Mr.
Richardson, E. Esq., *London.*
Roberts, W. Esq., *Bromley.*
Rolland, Miss, *Ditto.*

Sydney, the Right Hon. Lord Viscount.
Scott, Lady, *Sundridge Park.*
Scott, Miss, *Ditto.*
Sanders, John, Esq., *Plaistow.*
Sanders, Captain.

Digitized by Google

Schillio, Louis, Esq., *Beckenham.*
Scott, James, Esq., *Clay Hill.*
Scott, the Rev. Thomas.
S. H.
Shearley, Mr., *Orpington.*
Shepherd, Miss, *Bromley.*
Sinclair, Mr. Duncan, *St. Mary Cray.*
Smith, T. H., Esq., *Ditto.*
Smith, Mrs. R., *Bromley.*
Smith, Mr. Joseph, *Ditto.*
Smith, Mr. Abraham, *Keston.*
Snelling, Joseph, Esq., *St. Mary Cray.*
Spearing, Mr. John, *Ditto.*
Stone, Mrs., *Chislehurst.*
Stow, Mr. William, *Farnborough.*
Sudcliffe, the Rev. James, *Beckenham.*

Taynton, R. T., Esq., *Bromley.*
Telford, George, Esq., *Wigmore.*
Thompson, Mr. T., *Lewisham.*
Thornhill, John, Esq., *Beckenham.*
Townsend, the Hon. Miss, *Chislehurst.*
Townsend, Mr. Charles, *St. Mary Cray.*
Tucker, John, Esq., *Bexley.*
Turner, Mr. James, *Beckenham.*

Walter, Mr. John, *Bromley.*
Walter, Mr. James, *Ditto.*
Ward, John, Esq., *Holwood.*

Digitized by Google

Ward, S. N., Esq., *Baston, Hayes.*
Warren, Mr. Thomas, *Beckenham.*
Webb, Mr., *Orpington.*
Wetherell, T. M., Esq.
Welch, Miss, *Bromley.*
Wells, John, Esq., *Bickley, Bromley.*
Wells, Mr. Thomas, *Bromley.*
Wells, Mr., *Orpington.*
Whittle, Mr., *Ditto.*
Williams, E. A., Esq., *Bromley.*
W. M.
Wyatt, Mr. William, *Bexley.*

Young, Benjamin, Esq., *Bromley.*

*** The Writer has not intentionally omitted inserting any Subscriber's Name, and trusts none have escaped his notice.

Digitized by Google

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

By taking a review of the several places within ten miles of the Metropolis, and comparing them with Bromley and its environs, we shall find many of them deficient in those natural beauties which charm the eye in this particular neighbourhood. No views however great, no scenes however enchanting, can possibly produce more gratification than the scenery of Bromley is calculated to afford. For although it must be admitted that the views from any part of this place are not very extensive, yet who may not with truth affirm that the gaze of the stranger is sooner arrested by the scenery of Bromley, than that of any other place nearer to the Capital of England. Here

Digitized by Google

the woodland and the verdant meadow combine to excite the most pleasing sensations, whilst the numerous surrounding seats of the gentry confer an imposing appearance on the face of nature.

There was a time when the whole parish of Bromley must have presented a truly pleasing prospect, though unadorned with those numerous improvements which have subsequently taken place, as the greater part of the land now in the occupation of the Bishop of Rochester and John Wells, Esq., and other land towards the Western extremity of the parish,* was wholly or partially covered with broom, the petal of which, in the particular season of the year, must have been exceedingly beautiful, and from which it acquired its ancient name of *Bromlega*. Few vestiges of this broom, however, are now remaining, most of the ground having been taken into cultivation.

Various mansions of antiquity that had become delapidated have been taken down, and other magnificent structures erected on their sites. Im-

* Martin's Hill.

Digitized by Google

provements of various descriptions have taken place, within the last fifteen years, which certainly deserve particular attention. The inclosure of that vast tract of land Bromley Common, of which an account will be given in these pages, is a circumstance which, though deprecated by some, must impress every discerning person, who contrasts its present with its former state, with the folly of suffering so extensive a piece of land to remain dormant, when it was capable of being built upon and cultivated to a great extent, as it now is. The improvements of the church, and other places, are worthy of attention, though little more than cursory mention can be made of them in a work so limited as this, particularly as so many circumstances, *which have never yet appeared on the recording page of history*, present themselves to our notice.

The prospects of the surrounding country will be expatiated upon as largely as the limits of our pages will admit; and no more time, it is hoped, will be taken up in a description of natural grandeur, than the scenery of Bromley deserves.

Digitized by Google

With these observations we shall at once proceed to that which the title imports: how far the following pages may merit approbation it will be for the public to determine. The Writer also entertains a hope, that if any errors should be discovered in this work, condemnation will be less severely passed upon him in consideration of its proceeding from the pen of a very young man. He trusts this observation will be born in remembrance.

Digitized by Google

THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

Parish of Bromley.

'BROMLEY,'* says Ireland in his History of the County of Kent, 'is a populous and well-built town, the buildings continually increasing. Its situation is pleasant and healthy, and gives the name to the hundred in which it is situate.' It still continues and has from a very early period formed part of the demesnes of the Bishoprick of Rochester.

ETYMOLOGY.

It is found anciently written in Saxon, *Bromleag* and *Bromleah*, in Latin, *Bromlega*, signifying a field or pasture where broom grows.

* The parish of Bromley contains about 4008 acres of land.

Digitized by Google

HISTORY OF THE MANOR.

Ethelbert, King of Kent, gave to Bishop Eardulph and the Church of Rochester six furlongs of land in Bromley: that these lands, or a portion of them, in the wars of the succeeding period were seized by some of the monarchs, and that they continued in the hands of their successors, is highly probable; perhaps they were so retained until the ninth year of the reign of King Edgar, A. D. 967,* when that monarch, on Bishop Alfstans advancing 80 marks† of the finest gold and six pounds of silver, with 30 marks of gold paid to the King's Prefect, granted to the Church of Rochester and St. Andrew certain lands, containing 10 hides, at the place then commonly known by the name *Æt Bromleage*, termed by the men of Kent sulings, with all rights, profits, liberties, and emoluments whatever, except the repelling invasions and repairing of bridges, &c.

The son of Edgar, King Ethelred, caused the

* In the 8vo edition of Hasted, vol. 1, p. 553, is the following note. "The date of this charter in the Textus Roffensis is mispriated, for King Edgar did not begin his reign till 959, and Dunstan, who signs himself a witness, as Archbishop of Canterbury, did not come to that See till 960."

† I will not vouch for the orthography of this word. A manous is supposed to have been worth about 30 Saxon pence, or seven shillings and sixpence of our money.

Digitized by Google

lands belonging to the See to be laid waste, in consequence of a difference of opinion with the Bishop of Rochester; and Ethelsine, the King's Minister, received a part of the same at the King's hands. Ethelred also, by the advice of his Minister, took several estates from the See; but afterwards repenting of the great injury the Church had sustained from what he had done, declared, with much contrition, in the year 998, in the presence of the Convent of Rochester and his principal nobility, that what he had done was through the advice of his Minister, and then restored to the Church six plough lands here, together with the benefit of the woods in the Weald.*

* An uninhabited Waste called in Saxon *Weald*, signifies *a woody country*: by the Britons it was denominated *Coit andred*, from its immense extent, whence the Saxons gave it the second title of *Andred coleax*; in Latin *Saltus andred*, or *the great chase or forest*.

Opinions widely differ respecting the original limits of this woody district: some historians conceiving that it commenced at one place, and other writers at another, which uncertainty originates in the Weald having from time to time been diminished through the efforts of industry, so that at the present day it is wholly peopled, and covered by towns, villages, &c.; and on that account, says Mr. Hasted, it may more reasonably be maintained that there exists no Weald at all, than where it ought to begin or end. Notwithstanding the immense period that has elapsed since the Weald existed, there are certain privileges still connected with the lands, stated as having

Digitized by Google

A Saxon nobleman of the name of Birtrick, and his wife, who resided at Meopham in Kent, bequeathed by their will, made in the time of Alfstan, Bishop of Rochester, who died A.D. 984, all their lands at Bromley, after the life of Birtrick, to the Priory of St. Andrew at Rochester, as Elfric, their Lord, had bequeathed it for his ancestors and him.*

The King's half-brother, Odo, the great Bishop of Bayeux, subsequent to the Conquest commenced an attack upon, and seized the possessions of the Church of Rochester at Bromley, besides various other estates and premises belonging to the same.

The detention of these however, in his hands, was but of short duration, for in the Solemn As-

constituted part of the same, which induce the proprietors to contend strenuously for their being within its limits. Among such privileges are the non-payment of tithes for wood to the parson; the not being amenable to the statute of woods; neither has the lord waste within the Weald, the timber growing thereon belonging to the tenant, which exclusion of the lord from the waste is called *land peerage*.

The supposition is, that the Weald formerly extended much farther than it is said to do in the present day, and that it originally commenced at Winchelsea, in Sussex, and occupied 120 miles in extent and 30 in breadth: it is however, at present, restricted to far more circumscribed limits. *Ireland*, vol. 4, p. 746 and 747.

* The Bishops of Rochester, before the Conquest, were possessed of the manor of Southfleet, in Kent.

Digitized by Google

sembly of the whole County, held A. D. 1076, by the King's command at Penenden Heath, Archbishop Lanfranc* recovered them again. He afterwards restored them to Bishop Gundulph and the Church of St. Andrew at Rochester: accordingly this estate was entered under the general title of the Bishop of Rochester's Lands, in the survey in Doomsday Book, in the year 1080, and the above donation was ratified by several succeeding Archbishops.

Bromley, in the reign of Edward the Confessor, continued to be estimated at six sulings: it is not clear that the whole of them were received by the Bishop of Bayeux, but it is pretty well ascertained that only three were returned to the Church of Rochester, after the above adjudication.† On a

* Archbishop Lanfranc died A. D. 1089, after having sat 18 years, and was buried in the East end of his Cathedral, near the wall on the South side, by the Chapel of the Holy Trinity: but after the fire in 1174, his body was removed and placed nigh the Altar of St. Martin in the nave of the Church. He wrote several Works which were printed in folio by Dacherius, in Paris, A. D. 1648. *Harris*, p. 520.

† At the time of the survey, Bromley was entered in Doomsday Book* as follows, under the article

TERRA EPI ROVCESTRE.

Isde' epa' ten' Bromlei IN BROMLEI HUND. p. vi. solins

* The manner in which the survey was taken, will appear upon reference to the history of Bicester, and other works: also in the former may be seen a full explanation of the various terms, &c. made use of in Doomsday Book.

Digitized by Google

taxation of the Bishop of Rochester's manors in 1205, 40th Henry III., a jury returned on oath, that Bromley, as then let to farm, was worth £23. per annum: that the buildings could not be sustained but from the rent, because the arable lands did not repay the necessary expences laid out annually upon them; and further, that the buildings required the expence of sixty shillings yearly.

And again, at the latter end of the above reign, Thomas de Mapeham, Sacrist of the Church of Rochester, and others, being sworn and afterwards examined before the master of Stroud Hospital, commissioned for that purpose by the Pope's legate, concerning the value of the Bishop's manors, affirmed, that the manor of Bromley, was worth in annual rent, as well in money as in hens, eggs, and ploughshares, the sum of £24. 16*s*.; that the manor had two ploughs, though there were

se defd T. R. E. & mo. p. III. Tra'e XIII, car.' in duo sunt II. car & XXX uilli. cu' XXVI bord. hnt XI car Ibi i mold de IV sold & XII ac'pti Silua eporc T. R. E. & postu aluit XII lib. & X sol. modo XVIII lib. & tam' reddit XXI lib. II solid minus.

Translation.

In Broulei hundred. The same Bp. holds Broulei, was taxed at 6 sulings T. R. E. and now at 3. The arable land is 13 carucates; in demesne are 2 carucates and 30 villains, with 26 borderers having 11 carucates; there is one mill of 4*s*. and 2 acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of 100 hogs T. R. E. and afterwards was worth £12. 10*s*. now £18. and yet it yields £21. all but 2*s*.

Digitized by Google

not, in reality, two plough lands; that they were not, together with the pasture ground, worth more than 60*s.* 10*d.* per annum, on account of the sterility of the land; and that there was one mill, from which were received 2 marks per annum: sum total £29. 3*s.* 6*d.* In a valuation which took place some time subsequent to the above, the manor of Bromley was estimated at 50 marks.

It appeared on a taxation of the manors belonging to the Bishop of Rochester, made in the 20th year of the reign of King Edward I., A. D. 1291, that at Bromley the Bishop had £23. 10*s.* in rents of assize; 8*s.* in ploughshares; in hens 12*s.* 6*d.*; and that there were two mills* worth 40*s.* per annum; and two carucates of land worth 60*s.* per annum; and in the profits of herds and live stock 13*s.* 4*d.*; in reliefs, heriots, and other perquisites of court, 20*s.*; in pannage 5*s.*; in eggs 1*s.*; in the sale of wood 20*s.*; and from a carucate of land let to farm 1*s.* 4*d.*

An ancient M. S. in the Cottonian Library con-

* Part of one of these mills, though not used as such, still exists on the Ravensbourn. At the period of Doomsday it was used for the purpose of grinding corn; it was some time afterwards converted to a paper mill, and used as such for a considerable time; afterwards, its machinery was used for polishing mirrors: at this time these premises were in the occupation of Messrs. Fentham, Glass Manufacturers, of the Strand, London. They are now, however, much improved, and in the possession of Mr. Bilks.

Digitized by Google

tains the following statement of what ought to be left on the manor, on the death or translation of every Bishop.

"There ought to remain at Bromleghe, on the Bishop's manor, 1 cart-horse, value 13*s.* 4*d.*; 16 oxen; 4 stallions; 8 cows; 1 bull; 100 ewe sheep; 5 rams; 5 sows; 2 boars; 25 hogs of one year old; that seed for the land ought to be found, or paid for out of the assets of the deceased; also that one carter and one harrower ought to be maintained out of the said assets; that there ought to remain sundry utensils and household furniture, such as tables, casks, pots, &c. But these things, as well as those on the other manors of the Bishop, being in the custody of the Archbishop, were, during the vacancy of the See, either destroyed or lost; but now, by the long vacancies of the See, or the reservations of that of Rome, they will be all made away with or lost, and the buildings themselves will probably run to ruin, the temporals be diminished, and the woods destroyed."

In the 21st King Edward I., Thomas de Woldham, Bishop of Rochester, claimed certain liberties, viz. the return of the King's writs, assize of bread and ale, view of frank-pledge, and pleas of Withernam,* in his manor of Bromley, as well

* "Placito de vitito namio," or Withernam, is the taking or driving a Distress to a hold, or out of the County, so that

Digitized by Google

of his own tenants as those of the parson of the parish; and he complained that the Minister of Bromley, Abel de Saint Martin, caused, in like manner, amerciaments to be levied upon the tenants of his Church, when it happened they were amerced at the Bishop's view of Bromley, for breaking the said assize: notwithstanding which, the Bishop causing the same to be levied by his bailiffs too, the tenants were twice punished for the same default. Whereupon, the jury found upon oath, that the Bishop had a right to the said liberties, and that he found his Church seized of them upon his coming to it: upon which, the Parson submitted, and was fined half a mark. The same year the Bishop was summoned to answer the King, in a plea of quo warranto,* why he claimed the above privileges, &c. As to the return of writs, he answered that the manor was within the precincts of the Archbishop, and that the bailiffs of the Bishop received such return by the hands of the Archbishop's bailiff; therefore he prayed judgement, &c. As to the other liberties, the Bishop replied that his predecessors,

the Sheriff cannot upon *replevin* make delivery thereof to the party distrained.

* Quo Warranto is a writ against a person or corporation that usurps any franchise or liberty against the King, as to have a fair, market, or the like, in order to oblige the usurper to show by what right or title he holds or claims such franchise.

Digitized by Google

beyond all memory, had these liberties in the said manor, and had enjoyed them without interruption; on which the Jurors, after consideration, found a verdict for the Bishop: and the record of these pleas, at therequest of John de Shepney, Bishop of Rochester, was exemplified by *inspeximus* under the Great Seal, July 10th, 30th King Edward III., A. D. 1355.

In 1320, 14th Edward II., Bishop Homo de Heth was necessitated to sell the woods of Elmstead, in Bromley, for 200 marks, to pay the debts which his Church had incurred in soliciting its affairs at the Church of Rome.

In the 25th and 26th of Henry VI., the Bishop had confirmed to him all former charters and liberties, besides the additional grant of a weekly market on a Thursday, in his manor of Bromley, and one fair in the village on the feast of St. James the Apostle, and another within his manor on the day of St. Blaize.*

During the great Rebellion in 1646, on the abolition of Archbishops and Bishops, when their lands and possessions were vested in trustees to satisfy the debts due from the State, the manor of

* These fairs, since the alteration of the calendar, have been held on the 5th of August, and the 14th of February. Lambard, in his Perambulation of Kent, 1596, says "The fairs of Bromley are held on the 1st of February being St. Bridget's day, and the 25th of July being St. James' day."

Digitized by Google

Bromley, as part of the possessions of the Bishoprick of Rochester, was sold in 1648, to Augustine Skinner, for the sum of £5665. 11*s.* 11*d.*; in which situation it remained till the restoration of Charles II. in 1660, when it reverted back, with the palace, to its lawful owner, in the person of Dr. John Warner,* Bishop of Rochester; and in his successors they continued, being now in the possession of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

It does not appear that after this period anything specially connected with the manor, or any infringement of the manorial rights, took place; but in the 4th year of the reign of George III., an act was passed, intituled "An Act for extinguishing the right of common in, over, and upon certain commonable lands and grounds within the manor and parish of Bromley, in the county of Kent."

THE PALACE.

Archbishop Lanfranc, as before observed, restored the possessions of the Church of Rochester, at Bromley, to Bishop Gundulph, after the Assembly on Penenden Heath in 1076, and the origin of the mansion or palace is generally ascribed to

* The Founder of Bromley College.

Digitized by Google

this Bishop, who is reported to have been the greatest architect in existence in the days of the Conqueror. The erection of the palace most probably commenced soon after the restoration by Archbishop Lanfranc, but it appears to have been but a very inconvenient habitation, and in 1184 became so ruinous, that Bishop Gilbert de Glanville, successor to Bishop Walleran, found it absolutely necessary to rebuild the same, which he did in a more commodious manner.

Roger Forde, Abbot of Glastonbury, a man of great learning and eloquence, was killed at this palace in the time of Bishop Lawrence de St. Martin, on a journey which he undertook to defend the rights of his Church, A. D. 1266.*

The Bishops having constantly resided at this palace since the Reformation, it has consequently received many additions and alterations, effected at different periods. Bishop Sprat, in the year 1669, by license for that purpose from the Archbishop of Canterbury, pulled down and rebuilt the old Chapel, besides engaging in and completing several other very considerable repairs. While this Bishop resided at the palace, a parchment was found in a flower-pot, forged by a conspiracy, of which Bishop Sprat printed an account in a pamphlet, entitled "*A Relation of*

* Ireland, vol. 4, p. 625.

Digitized by Google

the wicked Contrivance of Stephen Blackhead and Robert Young, against the Lives of several Persons, by forging an Association under their hands."

Bishop Atterbury expended considerable sums of money on this edifice, but one of the greatest benefactors to it was Bishop Wilcox, whose reparation of the buildings, and improvement of the premises, was executed in a very elegant manner; after which, it remained, with little alteration, till Dr. Thomas, on his promotion to the See in 1774, finding the house much dilapidated, pulled the whole of it down, and erected a neat brick edifice on the site of the old palace,* which now forms the residence, during a part of the year, of the present Bishop.

The palace is most pleasantly situated about a quarter of a mile from the town, on the Eastern side, enclosed in a small but neat park, in which are several trees of great ornamental beauty. This palace is the only one belonging to the See of Rochester.†

In the grounds belonging and near to the palace is a spring, called St. Blaze's Well, which had anciently great resort, on account of its medicinal virtues, and an oratory annexed, dedicated to the

* A view of which may be seen in Hasted's Kent.

† Ireland.

Digitized by Google

above mentioned saint. It was particularly frequented at Whitsuntide, on account of a remission of forty days' enjoined penance, to such as should visit this chapel, and offer up their orisons in the three holy days of Pentecost. The oratory falling to ruin at the Reformation, the well was also disused, and the site, in process of time, became totally forgotten; and so continued till the spring was again discovered in 1754,* by means of a yellow sediment† remaining in the track of a small current leading thence to the corner of the moat, with the water of which it used to mingle. In digging round the well, there were found the remains of the old steps, made of oak plank, which appeared to have lain under ground for centuries. The water of this spring is chalybeate,

* Such is the positive assertion of Hasted: notwithstanding which, Wilson says "The well dedicated to St. Blasius is about 200 yards North-west of the mineral spring, in a field near the road, with seven oak trees in a cluster, on an elevated spot of ground adjoining." And Dunkin says "I have been informed that the present Bishop is of the same opinion; though to me this well appears to have been originally designed to supply the adjoining moat." Whether this well is, or is not, that which was dedicated to St. Blasius, is not, nor ever will be, clearly ascertained. But I am inclined to think Mr. Dunkin is not wrong in the inference he has drawn as to the original design.

† This sediment, it is reported, was first observed by Mr. Harwood, the Bishop's Chaplain.

Digitized by Google

and rises at the foot of a declivity at a small distance eastward from the palace of the Bishop; the soil through which it passes is gravel, and it issues immediately from a bed of pure white sand. This water, being found a good chalybeate, was, by order of the Bishop, immediately secured from the mixture of other springs, and enclosed, in hopes it might prove beneficial to such as should partake of it; since which, numbers of people, especially of the middling and poorer class, have been remarkably relieved from various infirmities and diseases, not only afflicting but sometimes dangerous*

Mr. Thomas Reynolds, formerly of this town, surgeon, analyzed the water of this well, and described its qualities as similar to those of Tonbridge Wells.

The present Bishop of Rochester† has made

* Ireland, vol. 4, p. 624.

† That benevolence may make its appearance in various ways, has ever been universally admitted; and it is highly probable that his lordship, the Bishop of Rochester, was convinced of the truth of the above observation, when he so liberally granted a piece of ground for cultivation to several of the poor inhabitants of Bromley. This useful manner of assisting the necessitous is deserving much commendation. The object for which pecuniary relief is oftentimes afforded, being nearly as frequently frustrated by misapplication: but in the cultivation of a piece of ground, the time and labour devoted are generally productive of that money, which is afterwards profitably expended.

Digitized by Google

various improvements, not only to the buildings, but also to the park and grounds; for, on account of the palace having been but seldom visited by Dr. King, the late Bishop, the hand of Time had made great havock on the premises, and the grounds* were reduced to a disordered state: the whole now, however, are in excellent condition, and the scene from the lawn, at the back of the palace, though very limited, is yet truly romantic.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN AND ITS IMPROVEMENTS.

The *town* of Bromley, though it has been improved by various additional buildings, is not the part of the parish which would justify the assertion, that Bromley can boast of beauties with which many other places are not privileged. This Parish is very pleasantly situated on an eminence; its distance from London is ten miles; and through it is the principal road from London to Hastings. The place is interspersed with many handsome seats and buildings, which are chiefly the residences of persons of opulence: no parish perhaps, considering its short distance from the

* On the grounds of the Bishop is a neat farm house, occupied by his lordship's bailiff.

Digitized by Google

Metropolis, and that coaches pass through it almost every hour in the day, could afford a more desirable retreat from the hurry and bustle of Town; besides which, it is rendered peculiarly so, on account of its pleasant and healthy situation.

Bromley consists principally of one street,* extending a considerable distance along the turnpike road. The Workhouse, erected in 1731, stands on the Western side of the street, in the entrance from London, and the College on the Eastern: in about the centre of this street is a very neat row of houses, having the Church on the right, and the Bell Inn† on the left hand.

The town of Bromley is principally inhabited by respectable tradesmen; and there is considerable business carried on, chiefly occasioned by the gentry of the neighbourhood.‡

* Some writers have described Bromley to consist of two principal streets, but where they found two streets I am unable to imagine. Perhaps they conceive the old adage "The historian should be just," not applicable to the person who professes to give the history of Bromley; if so I must be allowed to differ from them, and would say "Be truth our sole aim, and error our only fear," though some there are "fellces errore suo."

† These premises are now undergoing very extensive alterations, and I believe that some additions to the building are contemplated.

‡ Bromley, perhaps, at no one period of time, was in so great a state of affluence, as when James Scott, Esq. pursued his justly celebrated professional avocations in this town; for

Digitized by Google

The footways of the town are extremely well paved; but it is much to be regretted, that in a place like Bromley, (the high road through which winding in a very awkward direction by the Market Place,) no plan has been continued for lighting the town by night. The town, some few years ago, was partially lighted by public subscription, but even this is now entirely abandoned: no accidents however, of a serious nature, have lately occurred.* At each of the principal inns a lamp may be seen, but which, on account of their being scarcely any more, serves only, during the winter season, to render "darkness visible."

on account of the vast number of gentry who had placed themselves under the care of this gentleman here, Bromley carried an appearance which, unfortunately, is no longer to be seen. How far I am correct in saying that James Scott, Esq. conferred many benefits upon this place, let the regret that was felt at his leaving it testify.

* On the 20th day of May, 1830, the royal assent was given to an Act intituled "An Act to improve the road through the town of Bromley, in the County of Kent." This act was passed for the purpose of altering the road so as to avoid the present circuitous route by the Market Place: whether this act will ever come into operation or not, is very questionable. The Trustees of the road, however, have five years allowed them to complete the improvements they have in contemplation; and all that can be said upon the subject is, that an alteration of such a dangerous piece of road, is highly desirable, and it is hoped that the Trustees will not forego an improvement, which is now in their power to afford the public.

Digitized by Google

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN, &c.

In attempting to record the alterations which have taken place in the town of Bromley and its neighbourhood, much difficulty may be presumed to be felt.

First,—from the recollection of their being a possibility that some things, which may be considered *improvements*, have not been noticed.

Secondly,—on account of some of the alterations which have taken place *not* being considered improvements.

And thirdly,—for the reason that *some* may assert, that an imperfect description only is given.

In answer to these, the Writer would say, he is not aware that anything, which could reasonably be considered an improvement to the town or neighbourhood, has been passed without observation:—that what one person may consider an improvement, another may view in quite a different light:—and that (to advance the truth) every man is not an *equally warm admirer* of those alterations, which have taken place around him.

The general improvements of the town of Bromley which have taken place within the last 16 years, may be described as very considerable, and also those which have been effected in its

Digitized by Google

neighbourhood. Between the Swan and Bell Inns, on the Western side, was erected, in the year 1825, a very neat and commodious Methodist Chapel, held under a lease, for a certain term of years, of and from a Mrs. Jennings: this building stands on the site of some premises which were formerly in the occupation of Mr. William Tatton, deceased. Several time-stricken houses in the Market Square, and other parts of the town, have been taken down, and others, of a neat description, built.

In the year 1823 an engine-house was erected adjoining the watch-house: the town is not without a good, though small engine, the usefulness of which has been manifested upon many passing occasions.

The greatest ornament, perhaps, to this place, is the White Hart Inn, which has undergone so extensive an alteration, that it now forms one of the neatest buildings of the kind on the road from London to Hastings: the whole of the old front has been taken down, and the present stands back from the road about 28 feet: both sides of the house being circular, a good carriage-drive is formed, and the inconvenience that was experienced before the improvement took place, is now entirely removed.

The interior of this house is fitted up in an

Digitized by Google

elegant manner, and confers much credit on the present occupier; but the spacious assembly-room at this inn, has been deprived of that noble appearance which it formerly displayed, on account of a part having been converted to other purposes.

The buildings adjoining the premises of the Rev. Mr. Hibbert, on the Southern side, have all been erected within the last five years; which, together with the house now occupied by Mr. Barrett, bestow on Bromley an uniformity of appearance, which nothing short of such numerous improvements* could afford.

JUSTICES IN THE DIVISION AND THEIR RESIDENCES.

JOHN WELLS, Esq., *Chairman*, Bickley, Bromley.
JOSEPH BERENS, Esq., *Chairman of the West Kent Sessions*, Kevington, St. Mary Cray.
The Right Hon. Lord BEXLEY, Foot's Cray Place, Foot's Cray.
The Right Hon. Lord Viscount SYDNEY, Frognall, Chislehurst.

* The ground, on which a greater part of these premises now stand, was, before the erections, used as a garden, and in the possession of Mr. Hibbert.

Digitized by Google

The Rev. Sir CHARLES FRANCIS FARNABY, Bart., Wickham Rectory.
JOHN WARD, Esq., Holwood, Keston.
The Rev. THOMAS SCOTT, Bromley College.
JAMES CHAPMAN, Esq., St. Paul's Cray Park.
JAMES CHAPMAN, Jun. Esq., Ditto.
EMANUEL GOODHART, Esq., Langley Park.
BERTIE CORNELIUS CATOR, Esq., Mount Mascal, North Cray.
THOMAS LEWIN, Esq., The Hollies, near Eltham.

THEIR SITTINGS.

First Monday in the month at the Bell Inn, Bromley; third Monday in the month at the White Lion Inn, Farnborough; last Monday in the month at the Tiger's Head Inn, Foot's Cray.

Clerk to the Justices, Mr. R. B. LATTER.

POST OFFICE.

The post goes every day to and from London, (Saturdays excepted.) It comes in about a quarter after nine o'clock in the evening, proceeds immediately on for Sevenoaks, and returns through Bromley to London about a quarter before five o'clock in the morning.

Post Master, JOHN ACTON.

Digitized by Google

THE MARKET.

The market of Bromley was granted to the Bishop of Rochester in the 26th year of the reign of Henry VI., to be held weekly* within his manor. This market, there is but little doubt, was formerly resorted to for every kind of provisions, but within the last fifteen years it has not been so well supplied and attended as before that period: it is held on a Thursday weekly. The market house is built chiefly of wood, and is not very commodious: the lower part of it is used by persons who attend the market as a place of sale: there is a large room above, part of which is separated, and used by the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, for recovery of amounts under £5., who assemble and hear causes every alternate Thursday; the other part is frequently used for sales by auction.

THE FAIRS.

There are two annual fairs, one on the 14th of February, and the other on the 5th of August; each is well supplied with cattle.

* Some little time ago an attempt was made to establish a monthly market for cattle, which met with but little success, and was shortly discontinued.

Digitized by Google

BOARDING SCHOOLS.

In Bromley there are several good private schools. The establishment conducted by Mr. RAWES is very extensive, and has existed for more than a century. The Rev. Mr. NEWELL receives a select number of young gentlemen. There are two other establishments, one kept by the Rev. Mr. HIBBERT, and the other by the Rev. Mr. TURNBULL. The boarding school now in the possession of Mrs. BLAXLAND, is the only one of celebrity for young ladies; that of Mrs. CHALKLIN's having ceased to exist, on account of that lady's removal from Bromley.

MEETING HOUSE.

Near the Market Place, on the Northern side, is a small meeting house, belonging, with other property,* to Mr. William Isard, and held by

* In the evening of the 1st day of July, 1828, an extensive fire broke out, by accident, on the premises of Mr. Isard, which proved destructive to the greater part of them. The furious element, on this occasion, filled the whole of the people of the town of Bromley with alarm, beyond that they had ever experienced; nothing of the kind, to such an extent,

Digitized by Google

certain Trustees, under a lease from Mr. Isard, for a term of 99 years, at an annual rent of £21. The chapel is supplied by preachers* from the London Itinerant Society, and the congregation has, within the last few years, increased so much, that subscriptions, to a very large amount, have been raised for erecting a building more commodious, which the Trustees have the power to do, by taking down the present chapel and other premises adjoining, by virtue of a covenant, expressly for that purpose, inserted in the lease.

STAGE COACHES.

A convenient communication is held with the Metropolis by means of the stage coaches: one of which leaves Bromley at Eight o'clock in the Morning for Charing Cross; one at twenty minutes after Eight for Gracechurch Street; and

having happened within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant; and had the wind, which was then blowing hard at the South-western point, been in a contrary direction, the flames must inevitably have reached the adjoining premises; as it was, great danger in that respect was apprehended, and the united exertions of the inhabitants of Bromley, on that occasion, ought never to be forgotten.

* Among whom have appeared many exemplary and excellent men.

Digitized by Google

two at Nine o'clock, one to Charing Cross, and the other to Gracechurch Street. The coach that leaves Bromley at Eight in the Morning for London, returns at Twelve, and leaves Bromley again at Two, returning in the Evening at Eight. The other coaches return at Five and Six in the Evening. At Five in the Evening a pair-horse coach also leaves Bromley for Charing Cross, and returns from thence at Eleven the following day. On Sundays, during the summer season, the whole of these coaches, with the exception of the latter, make two journeys to London.

BROMLEY COMMON.

THE ENCLOSURE.

We now mention, as an improvement which ought never to be lost sight of, particularly by those who enjoy its immediate benefits, the enclosure of Bromley Common,* which took place in the year 1822. Little, before this was effected, was found on so dreary a tract of land, to gratify the curiosity of the lover of novelty. A few years ago, from the Plough Inn, for a considerable distance along the road, there was scarcely a house

* On this Common there are about 87 houses.

Digitized by Google

to be seen to cheer the benighted traveller; there were, it is true, at the extremity of the Common a few scattered cottages, these may have served as a relief to the eye of the stranger while viewing so extensive a space of unproductive soil. There is a peculiar pleasure arising from a recollection of the various changes of importance which have been effected from time to time, even though we only read of such; how much more gratifying then must it be, to look back to a period when such a material change was made in the neighbourhood, for the great benefit of a portion of its inhabitants. A few years ago, the whole of Bromley Common was uncultivated, and that part of it formerly called Prince's Plain, and indeed other parts, were covered with furze, rushes, and various kinds of heath.

In the year 1823, the road, which formerly branched off by the seat late in the possession of Major Rhode, was, by an order of the Justices, diverted and turned, the land stopped up, and has since been enclosed with a wooden fence. The course of the new road here is rather winding, but the old road was not only dreary, but afforded every facility for the commission of robberies.*

* Near this spot, some years ago, there stood a tree of immense circumference, commonly called 'Beggar's Bush,' probably from the fact of its being a place of secrecy for highwaymen and footpads.

Digitized by Google

Near the extremity of the Common, on the road to Sevenoaks, there have been made, since the enclosure, two other roads, one of which, on the right hand side, branches off for Keston Mark, and the other to some cottages on the South-east side of the Common.

Oakley Farm, near to which is the old road above mentioned, was formerly the property of Mr. Brotherson, and afterwards of Capt. Milford, it was subsequently occupied by Mr. Potts, and afterwards sold by Admiral Cornwallis to the above named Major Rhode, by whom it was occupied for a considerable time; it is now in the occupation of — Walton, Esq. This seat has been much improved, and now presents a very pleasing appearance.

Adjoining these premises is the mansion of George Warde Norman, Esq., which was purchased, after being in the possession of various persons, by James Norman, Esq. This edifice underwent many judicious alterations after it came into the hands of the latter gentleman, and by whom it was considerably enlarged and improved.*

The pleasure grounds of this seat are extremely tasteful, and, with the addition of a handsome sheet of water, which passes through the grounds

* George Norman, Esq., the father of the present possessor, was a Magistrate, in the Division of Bromley, for upwards of thirty years.

Digitized by Google

at the back part of the house, together with the excellent arrangement of the plantations, cannot fail to excite that just degree of gratification, which such a scene is competent to afford.

Near this is the excellent establishment for a select number of young ladies, under the direction of Miss Shepherd.* This house was formerly the residence of Thomas Chase, Esq., a gentleman who narrowly escaped with life, amidst the ruins of Lisbon, in which city he resided at the memorable earthquake of 1775. About the year 1746, this house was in the possession of Mr. Bull, and some years subsequent in the occupation of F. T. Martin, Esq. The grounds attached to this building are not extensive, but well arranged, and the premises are particularly neat.

On that part of Bromley Common which was formerly called Shooting Common, there have been erected numerous houses of genteel structure

* The father of this lady was the author of a work entitled "*A critical and practical elucidation of the Book of Common Prayer.*" The first volume was published during the life-time of the author, but the second volume being left, through his decease, in an unfinished state, was completed (as I have been informed) by the above lady, who added a Biographical Memoir of the author, which all who have perused must admire for the elegant terseness of its diction, as well as for the candour of its observations, in reference to one so nearly allied to the Biographer.

Digitized by Google

and appearance, those of Belle Vue Place, and others immediately adjoining, claiming the pre-eminence.

The vast number of neat cottages which have been built by Mr. Barrett, as far as the delightful residence of Mr. Ebbutt, add very much to the improvement of this portion of the parish. In the spring of the year and summer, the situation of this delightful spot must be really desirable; and, considering its proximity to the Metropolis, it is surprising that a portion of the ground still remains unbuilt upon.*

SOUTHBOROUGH.

Southborough is principally remarkable for the tradition of its having anciently been the court of a Baron, who possessed and exercised the power of judging capital as well as minor offences.

At a farm, lately in the occupation of Mr. Alexander, but now much improved and in the possession of Abraham Welland, Esq., the aged

* That part of the parish of Bromley called Mason's Hill, is also very much improved from the extremely neat erections that have taken place within the last few months.

Digitized by Google

inhabitants reported that there was formerly a gate-house, the windows of which were strongly grated with iron bars, and that it had been used as a prison; and further, as if for the purpose of increasing surprise to its utmost height, affirmed that, at a more remote period, there stood a court-house on the premises, and that executions occasionally took place on a spot not far distant. As, however, nothing in the shape of history or otherwise can be found to support, in the slightest degree, any such assertions, and as this place constitutes a part of the manor belonging to the Bishop of Rochester, I agree with Mr. Dunkin, and must say there is very little doubt that the whole of the above report is anything but true, or, at least, exaggerated by the influence of superstition.

Southborough* is situated from Bromley nearly two miles: it contains about sixteen houses, among which are the pleasant seats of Abraham Welland, Esq., the late Governor Cameron, and others. Some of the premises here, from their appearance, would indicate their erection to have taken place many years ago.

* There are two roads leading from this place to Bromley Common, independent of the high road leading from Wigmore.

Digitized by Google

RESIDENCES OF THE PRINCIPAL GENTRY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

To identify the situation of Bromley, and more particularly for the information of strangers, the following seats are enumerated, those marked thus § are within the parish.

§The Palace of the Bishop of Rochester.
§Bickley, the seat of John Wells, Esq.
§Sundridge, the seat of Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., M. P.
§Plaistow Lodge, the seat of Walter Boyd, Esq.
The seat of Lord Farnborough.*
§The seat of George Warde Norman, Esq.

* On account of the beautiful scenery which the premises of Lord Farnborough present, we are almost constrained to enter into a minute description of them, but for the reason that every thing out of the parish, and which, therefore, may be deemed irrelevant, should be avoided, we abstain. The writer, however, will venture thus far and say, that such a description would prove highly interesting to all who are desirous of seeing such improvements as those that have been effected under his lordship's direction. On every Thursday, from the 1st of May until the 1st of November, his lordship's gates are open for all respectable persons, who may be desirous of viewing the grounds, which, as before premised, are of a most pleasing description.

Digitized by Google

§The seat of — Walton, Esq.
The seat of the Hon. Mrs. Moreland, Hayes.
The seat of Lady Gibbs.
Wickham Court, the seat of Lady Dowager Farnaby.
Wickham Rectory, the seat of the Rev. Sir Charles Francis Farnaby, Bart.
Holwood, the seat of John Ward, Esq.
Hollydale, the seat of G. Kirkpatrick, Esq.
Hayes Place, the seat of the late Earl of Chatham, now of Mrs. Dehany.
The seat of the late Abel Moysey, Esq., Hayes.
Baston, the seat of Samuel N. Ward, Esq.
§Bromley Lodge, the seat of Mrs. Erskine.
Langley, the seat of Emanuel Goodhart, Esq.
Beckenham Place, the seat of John Cator, Esq.
The seat of James Scott, Esq., Clay Hill.
The seat of the late George Grote, Esq.
The seat of the Hon. M. Fortescue, Beckenham.
The seat of — Pott, Esq., Ditto.
The seat of the Rev. Thomas Dale, Ditto.
The seat of John Thornhill, Esq., Ditto.
The seat of — Smith, Esq., Ditto.
§Freeland House, the residence of C. Pott, Esq.
§The residence of Mrs. William Boyd.
§The residence of Mrs. Willoughby.
§Southborough Lodge, the seat of Abraham Welland, Esq.

Digitized by Google

§Shawfield Lodge, the seat of Godfrey Meynell, Esq.
§The seat of Miss Veitch.
§The residence of Mathew Boyd, Esq.
§Rectory House, the seat of Abel Moysey, Esq.
§Beechfield, the residence of W. Roberts, Esq.
§Pixfield, the residence of Mrs. Edward Latter.
§Vale Cottage, the residence of Thomas Carey Palmer, Esq.
§The residence of Henry Bilke, Esq.
§The residence of Thomas Waller, Esq.
The residence of the Rev. F. Gildhart, West Wickham.
The residence of William Courtenay, Esq., Ditto.

These seats are certainly handsome buildings, and many of them very pleasantly situated: this work, however, will not admit of a particular description of each, nor can others, more distant from Bromley, or less noticeable, be enumerated.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

The alterations and improvements that have so recently taken place in this venerable structure, which is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul,*

* Wilson, in his description of Bromley, published in 1797, gives the following paragraph, "I have met with a very old

Digitized by Google

are of an extensive nature: the whole body of the church has been taken down, and rebuilt in a

account which says this church was originally dedicated to St. Blaze, but for the last 700 years it has been considered, and certainly is, that of St. Peter and St. Paul." "It is much to be regretted," says Dunkin, "that Mr. W. has not given his authority, as no such account is to be found in any author I have had an opportunity of consulting. Nor have I been able to meet with any information to countenance this opinion." And Dunkin further says, "In opposition to the above opinion, I have been informed that the late Bishop Dampier always maintained that the church was dedicated to St. James, from the circumstance of one of the fairs being held on that day; an opinion evidently grounded on the idea of this fair originating in a meeting of the people to celebrate the dedication of the church, according to an old custom; and that the charter was only a confirmation of a more ancient fair, as appeared in many other instances. I understand the Bishop's opinion was adopted by several persons, and the bills of mortality made out accordingly. But I consider this mode of arguing very inconclusive, for the same reasoning equally applies to St. Blaise; and if any 'very old account' is in favour of the latter saint, the Bishop's argument is completely overturned; at any rate the opinion of the 'last 700 years' is entitled to the most serious consideration."

We have, however, the consolation to see the church still exist; and so I am not at all disposed to argue on this difference of opinion, as to which of the above saints this church was dedicated. I shall merely observe that the fact, if known, would be but of little consequence. Arguments which attempt to prove what cannot be ascertained, are useless, more particularly when employed by persons who have not "ingenium par materiæ."

Digitized by Google

neat manner and on a more commodious scale. Many additional sittings* have been obtained in consequence of the alterations; besides which there was an absolute necessity for numerous repairs, as the roof and walls were fast mouldering to decay. The tower has been altered, though its square embattlements remain nearly as before; the cupola is taken down, but a turret erected in its stead; and additions which materially improve the appearance of the church effected.†

Previous to this edifice undergoing these numerous alterations, there was nothing of any con-

* To give something like a definite account of the additional sittings, the following inscription, on a stone affixed at the Western extremity of the church, is quoted: "This church was enlarged in the year 1830, by which means 487 additional sittings were obtained; and, in consequence of a grant from the 'Incorporated Society for promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels,' 287 of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever, in addition to 70 formerly provided.

JAMES EDWARD NEWELL, A. M. *Minister.*
JOHN WALTER, } *Churchwardens.*"
THOMAS C. PALMER, }

† To give those persons who have not had an opportunity of viewing Bromley church, an idea of the various alterations which have been made, it need only be mentioned, that the expence incurred thereby amounted to the sum of £4367. 17*s.* 6½*d.* The alterations took place under the direction of Mr. George Smith, Architect, London, and the Contractor for the works was Mr. W. B. Moore.

Digitized by Google

sequence to gratify the curiosity, except the door that stood on the Southern side, which appeared to be very ancient. The square font had plain circular arches, which countenance the supposition that it was once decorated with brass engravings: this font was evidently of Norman architecture. Weever says it was reported, in his days, that in the wall of this church once lay the portraiture in stone of Richard de Wendover,* some time Parson of this parish, and afterwards Bishop of Rochester, who died in 1250, and was buried, by the King's express command at Westminster.

In 1360, was buried in the South aisle, Walter de Henche,† once Rector of this Parish,‡ and afterwards Bishop of Rochester, and the following French inscription was placed on his tomb:

Icy gist Master Walter de Henche,
Qi fu Persone de Bromleghe, 1360.§

Anciently, on the North side of the nave, was a confessional, probably destroyed soon after the Reformation, but the door-way and steps leading to it remained till the building of the North aisle.‖

* Vide List of Rectors and Curates.

† Lysons, vol. iv, p. 317.

‡ Vide List of Rectors and Curates.

§ *Translation.* Here lies Master Walter de Henche,
Who was a person of Bromley, 1360.

‖ The building of which took place in the year 1792.

Digitized by Google

Of the interior of the church little more need be said than that it is very commodious. At the entrance by the Western door, the painted glass,* at the top of the large Eastern window, is peculiarly striking: this glass was the gift of Lord Farnborough.

The Bishop's chair is very neatly constructed, and is close adjoining the communion table on the Northern side.

The galleries of this church are much larger than those which stood with the old building; indeed, from the declaration of the Minister and Churchwardens, in the inscription before quoted, it will be seen how much more commodious the building now is.

These galleries are parted by Gothic arches, nearly in the same manner as the side windows are constructed, which, together with the large varnished beams which support the roof, look truly grand.

There are now a reading desk and neat pulpit, and so placed that they may be seen from most parts of the edifice. The stove, previously to the alterations taking place, was fixed at the Western end of the church, it is now, however, removed to

* On which are the following Latin words: "Laus Deo Soli Deo Gloria."

Digitized by Google

the North-east corner; the heat from which is conveyed in pipes to the centre of the church, where it circulates by means of a ventilator. On account of this alteration, great inconvenience which was formerly experienced is now entirely removed.

The vestry-room* is, perhaps, as well adapted for its purpose as it possibly could be, having one great advantage that of being commodious; it is erected at the Eastern end of the church.

To show when Bromley Church first became possessed of an organ and stove, it may be necessary to quote the following inscription on a board at the Western end.

The organ and stove were placed in this church, by voluntary contributions of the inhabitants, in the year 1825.

WALKER KING, A. M., Minister;
JAMES P. DAVIS, } Churchwardens.
JAMES KNOWLES, }

As there are many monuments and inscriptions in this church, which cannot be passed unnoticed, they are here quoted, as they were transcribed from the originals.

* The vestry-room, together with the circular headed windows, are two improvements which were not included in the original contract for repairs.

Digitized by Google

GALLERY,—NORTH SIDE.*

(ON A MARBLE MONUMENT.)

Sacred to the memory of
MARY LYNDON,

youngest daughter of RICHARD ASHE, Esq., late of Ashfield in the County of Meath, in Ireland, an upright member of the parliament of that kingdom. To her many exalted advantages, was added a sweetness of countenance that engaged the liking of every one who saw her, and was the index of a mind fraught with those exalted virtues which she practised in their sublimest excellence; but which to the world can never be completely known until that awful day,

When in the sight of man and angels,
They will be proclaimed and rewarded.

Her soul was transferred, by God's mercy, to eternal happiness, on the 27th day of June, 1780. In grateful and affectionate sense of the blessings he enjoyed in so virtuous and amiable a wife, so faithful a friend, and so pleasing a companion, this monument is here placed by her disconsolate husband, WILLIAM LYNDON, Esq.

Next to which is the following.

In a vault near this church are deposited the

* In consequence of the alterations three new vaults have been made on this side.

Digitized by Google

remains of SOPHIA MARIA, the wife of THOMAS RAIKES, of Berkeley Square, who departed this life, after a short illness, on Thursday, the 5th of April, 1810, in the 27th year of her age, leaving an afflicted husband, and four infant children, to lament her irreparable loss.

The following lines also appear.

Oh! blest with feelings, person, manner, mind,
Too dearly lov'd to be so soon resign'd;
Forgive the selfish grief which weeps below,
And mourns thy passage from a world of woe,
What though a husband's anguish bid thee stay,
Though friends with sighs and tears obstruct thy way;
Rise, dear Sophia! seek the realms of rest,
And be the angel which thy form exprest.

These lines, I believe, were written by him who must have severely felt so sudden a decease of one to whom it appears he was so fondly attached.

Close to the above is the next.

Juxta hoc marmor sepultus est
THOMAS RAIKES,

unus e banci anglici rectoribus cui annis, 1797, et 1798. Anxia republica et laborante solicite prudenterque prefuit civis optimus mercator fide, industria mentis que dotibus, insignis qui, etiam cum in omne re cœlum respiceret. Handquaquam orbus aut confectus annis sed Ætate ac liberis florens opes honestissime conquisitas utiquque

Digitized by Google

aut religionis incrementum aut hominum postularet miseria prompte ac largiter impendebat. Obiit 29° Decembris, annus salutis 1814°, Ætatis 73°.*

The following is well deserving notice.

To the memory of
JOHN HAWKESWORTH, LL. D.†
who died the 17th of November, 1773, aged 57 years. That he lived ornamental and useful to

* *Translation.* Near this monument is interred THOMAS RAIKES, who was one of the Governors of the Bank of England in the years 1797 and 1798. During a perturbed state of the community, by his indefatigable, zealous, and prudent endeavours for the public weal, he proved himself a most excellent citizen. Eminent for the energy of his mind, and the extent of his wealth, yet regarding in every event a divine providence: he was a faithful merchant. Not being bereft of his offspring, nor worn down by his numerous years, he was seen flourishing in a good old age, blessed in the endearments of his family. Abounding in riches honorably acquired, he was always at hand, promptly and liberally to bestow his aid, wherever the interests of religion, and the wretchedness of mankind, demanded his munificence and succour. Died 29th December, 1814, aged 73.

† In 1761 considerable dispute arose between the Doctor and the parish, on his being chosen Overseer; after which it appears he served the office. For several years Dr. Hawkesworth made Bromley his residence; the house he occupied, which was very large and of ancient structure, stood on the site of those premises now in the possession of Mr. Ray. This gentleman was an universally admired writer; 'The Adventurer' was principally his own, though it is well known he received some assistance from his much esteemed friend

Digitized by Google

society, in an eminent degree, was among the boasted felicities of the present age; that he laboured for the benefit of posterity, let his own pathetic admonition at once record and realize.

From the Adventurer. No. 140.

The hour approaches in which whatever praise I have acquired by these compositions will be remembered with indifference, and the tenour of them alone will afford me comfort. Time, who is impatient to date my last paper, will shortly moulder the hand that is now writing it in the dust, and still the heart that now throbs at the reflection. But let not this be read as something that relates only to another; a few years only can divide the eye that is reading, from the hand that has written this awful truth. However obvious, and however reiterated, it is frequently forgotten; for surely if we did not lose our remembrance, or at least our sensibility, that alone would always predominate in our lives, which alone can afford us comfort when we die.

Bromley in Kent, March 8, 1754.

Dr. Johnson. The 'Gentleman's Magazine,' for some time bore the name of Dr. Hawkesworth as the Editor. He wrote several dramatic pieces, translated Telemachus, and received a considerable sum of money for furnishing an account of the first voyage to the South Seas.

Digitized by Google

On the same monument is inscribed the following.

Also to the memory of
Mr. BENJAMIN BROWN,
of this parish, who died 22nd of October, 1777, aged 60 years. If no shining qualities adorned his life, cheerful integrity and diligent good-will rendered it always desirable to others, and comfortable to himself. This monument is inscribed by their sorrowing relict and sister. M. H.

The foregoing, together with the monument of THOMAS NEWNHAM, Esq., many years a Magistrate for this County, and resident at Southborough; and that of JOHN SCOTT, M. D., a descendant of the noble family of Buccleugh, are those affixed in this part of the church.

GALLERY,—SOUTH SIDE.

On a large square marble monument is this inscription.

Sacred to the memory of
JOHN GIFFORD, Esq.,
who died March 6th, 1818, aged 60. A man whose active services, in various departments of public life, were uniformly animated by a high

Digitized by Google

and commanding sense of public duty. Stedfast in the faith, and resolute in the practice of christianity, attached from conviction to the established church, he supported its cause by his exertions, and adorned it by his virtues. As a Magistrate, in the arduous and responsible situation of a public office, by his activity, vigilance, and skill, he ministered, in no small degree, to the security and peace of the Metropolis, and to the detection and prevention of crime. In his Writings, whether as a Politician, Historian, or Critic, he dedicated the powers of a vigorous mind and effective style to the maintenance and protection of the morals, the laws, and the constitution of his country; venerating the talents, and attached to the principles, of that illustrious Statesman, who, in the days of turbulence and faction, was the guide and the guardian of the State. He dedicated his latter years to record the life of so true a patriot, and has transmitted his name to posterity as the Historian and Biographer of William Pitt. That no testimony of their admiration might be wanting to the character and the virtues of such a man, the Members of the Pitt Club have caused this monument to be erected, as a memorial of affectionate regard to their Honorary Secretary and Friend.

Digitized by Google

Near to the above is a tablet with the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of
THOMAS CHASE, Esq.,

formerly of this parish, born in the city of Lisbon the 1st of November, 1729, and buried under the ruins of the same house where he first saw the light, in the ever memorable and terrible earthquake which befel that city on the 1st of November, 1755, when, after a most wonderful escape, he, by degrees, recovered from a very deplorable condition, lived till the 20th of November, 1788, aged 59 years.

Adjoining the last is the monument of THOMAS CHASE, Esq. and SARAH his Wife, the Father and Mother of the above Gentleman, who caused this monument (which is very handsome) to be erected from filial respect.

On this side is the monument of HARRINGTON BAGSHAW, Curate of Bromley, Rector of Woolwich, and 40 years Chaplain of Warner's College, 1759. Also of THOMAS BAGSHAW, A. M., Curate of Bromley, Rector of Southfleet, and 54 years Chaplain of Warner's College, 1787.

At the Eastern end of the church is a handsome marble monument with this inscription.

In the South isle lyeth the body of
ZACHARY PEARCE, D. D.,

Digitized by Google

who was made Rector of St. Bartholomew's, behind the Royal Exchange, London, March 10th, 1720; Vicar of St. Martin's in the Fields, Westminster, January 10th, 1724; Dean of Winchester, August 4th, 1739; Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation, December 7th, 1744; Bishop of Bangor, February 21st, 1748; Dean of Westminster, May 4th, 1756; and Bishop of Rochester, June 24th, 1756. He resigned the Deanery of Westminster, June 24th, 1768, and died in a comfortable hope of (what was the chief aim of all his labours upon earth) the being promoted to a happier place in Heaven. He was born September 8th, 1690, and died June 29th, 1774, aged 84 years.

In the same vault is interred Mrs. MARY PEARCE, wife of the above. Died October 23rd, 1773, aged 70 years. Near which is a neat tablet of the family of the KINGS.

NORTH AISLE.

On the wall of this aisle, among others, is the following inscription.

JOHN THOMAS, D. C. L.
Bishop of Rochester, gave, in the year 1792, towards the erecting of this part of the church £500.

THOMAS SOAN,
BOOTH HIBBERT, } Churchwardens.

Digitized by Google

Also the monument of the Rev. Mr. Baker, with the following inscription.

In a vault, near the Western door, are deposited the remains of

JOHN BAKER, A. M.

of Lincoln College, Oxford, many years Lecturer of this parish. Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit Aprilis 17, A. D. 1824, Ætatis 58.

In the same aisle is a tablet placed to the memory of HENRY SMITH, D. D., 42 years Rector of this parish, and 18 years Rector of Headley, Hants. Died 22nd July, 1818. Together with many others which need not be noticed.

SOUTH AISLE.

On the wall of this aisle are the monuments of PEREGRINA, wife of LEWIS BUSSY MANSEL, 1721, and MARY, the wife of the Rev. THOMAS WINTERBOTTOM, Rector of Ashurst, and Vicar of Birling, Kent, 1720.

At the East end of this aisle is a wooden tablet with the arms and quarterings of STYLE, and an inscription which denotes that the pews beneath were solely appropriated to the use of the STYLES', formerly owners of Simpson's Place, and were then (1727) the property of the Lady Elwill.

Digitized by Google

Near which is the following, inscribed on a small plain stone.

Here lyeth buried Te Bodye of JOHN MAVNSALL, som tym of Chichely, In Te County of Bvckingham, Esqvier. He had Issve two Sonnes, John and Thomas, and departed this life the 19th day of October, Ano. Dom. 1625, Beinge above the age of 50 years.

With the two following curious lines, rendered, on account of there being no separation in the words, not very easy to decipher.

Shortwashislifeyetdieshenever,
Deathhashisdueyetlivesheever.

Close to the above is the following, inscribed (but abbreviated) on a small brass tablet.

Hic jacet Isabella quondam uxor Ricardi Lacer, nuper majoris Londini, quæ obiit quarto kalendarum Augusti, A. D. MCCCLVI. Cujus anima propitietur Deus. Amen.

On the floor, among others, are the tombs of Anthony Calthorpe, Esq., 1594; John Younge, Bishop of Rochester, 1605; Richard Thornhill, Esq., 1600; John Travel, Esq., of London, 1652; Catilina, Relict of Thomas Needham, late Rector of Stocke Dalbourn, 1676; Robert Pynsent, Gentleman, 1679; Mariabella, Wife of John Whelly, of Freeland House, Merchant, 1701; and William Wilson, Esq., 1776. Also stones

Digitized by Google

to the memory of Edward Brewster, Apothecary, 1674; James Gosling, Esq., 1765; the Rev. John Derby, Rector of Southfleet, 1788; Henry Savage, Esq., 1785; Mary, Wife of Charles Gore, Esq., 1785; and Mrs. Mary Dimes, 1788.

In the nave, with others, are the tombs of John King, of London, Draper, 1603; Jane, Daughter of John Brewton, Gent., Wife of Henry Bodenham, Esq., of Folston, Wilts, 1625; Owen Gethin, Gent., 1654; Thomas Woodstock, 1694; Edward Wyat, Esq., 1758; William Everest, Gent., 1777; John Wagginton, 1784; and Elizabeth, Wife of Dr. Samuel Johnson.*

* A few months before the death of Dr. Johnson, he honoured the memory of his wife by the following epitaph.

Hic condunter reliquæ
ELIZABETHÆ
Antiqua Jarvisiorum gente
Peatlingæ, apud Leicestrienses, ortæ;
Formosæ, cultæ, ingeniosæ, piæ;
Uxoris, primis nuptiis, HENRICI PORTER,
Secundis SAMUELIS JOHNSON;
Qui multum amatam, dinque defletam
Hoc lapide contexit
Obiit Londini, mense mart
A. D. MDCCLII. *Boswell.*

Mrs. Johnson was buried at Bromley in consequence of her disconsolate husband having committed the disposal of her remains to Dr. Hawkesworth. How long, and how severely that excellent man felt the loss, appears from the frequent

Digitized by Google

Notice has already been taken of the gift of £500. by Bishop Thomas. Affixed to the wall, at the Western end of the church, is the following list of benefactions to the parish.

mention of his dearest wife in his devotions, and from the above epitaph written but a few months before his death. *Lysons.*

"And that his love for his wife was of the most ardent kind, and during the long period of fifty years, was unimpaired by the lapse of time, is evident from the various passages in the series of his prayers and meditations." *Boswell's Life of Johnson.*

The following is a copy of the letter written by Dr. Johnson to Mr. Bagshaw, which, in some measure, will show the tenderness of affection the former retained for his wife even at a period of thirty years after her death.

Sir,

Perhaps you may remember that in the year 1753, you committed to the ground my dear wife. I now intreat your permission to lay a stone upon her, and have sent the inscription, that if you find it proper you may signify your allowance.

You will do me a great favour by showing the place where she lies, that the stone may protect her remains. Mr. Ryland will wait upon you for the inscription and procure it to be engraved; you will easily believe that I shrink from this mournful office; when it is done, if I have strength remaining, I will visit Bromley once again, and pay you part of the respect to which you have a right from

Reverend Sir, your most humble servant,

July 12th, 1784. SAM. JOHNSON.

The monument erected to the memory of Dr. Johnson, is said to have cost *eleven hundred guineas*, on which was written an epitaph by the Rev. Dr. Parr.

Digitized by Google

JOHN BUCKRIDGE, Bishop of Ely, by will, bequeathed the sum of £20., to be employed in some yearly benefit for the poor of the parish; with which, and the addition of some little money besides, a purchase was made of a house in Nichol Lane,* rented at 40s. per annum, which sum, necessary repairs being deducted, was to be distributed every Good Friday, or near that time, among the most necessitous inhabitants.

Rev. G. WILSON, late Rector of Chiselhurst, at his death, left by will £200., to be laid out in a purchase, the annual income of which be directed to be appropriated to the benefit of the Charity School in this parish for ever: to which was added £200. by L. Tolson.

JASPER GREEN, Vicar of Woodnesborough, by will, 1660, gave 20s. yearly to the poor of the parish.

Dr. JOHN WARNER, Bishop of Rochester, bequeathed £20. in money, for the use of the poor in this parish.

HENRY KEIGHTLY, of Bromley, gave by will, 29th May, 1520, out of his estate at Pope St. Eltham, 12 pence yearly towards mending the highways in this parish.

1638. RICHARD HOLLINGSWORTH, Citizen of

* I believe it is not generally known that Nichol Lane is situate in Plaistow.

Digitized by Google

London, gave the large silver chalice and patine for the communion service.

1705. The Rt. Rev. THOMAS SPRAT, Bishop of Rochester, gave a cushion and cloth of black velvet and gold tabby for the communion table, also the tipe pulpit and cushion for the same.

1715. Mrs. HELEN SPRAT, relict of the said Bishop, gave a silver gilt chased chalice and cover for the communion service.

1734. Mr. THOMAS MOORE left a legacy of £50. to the Charity School.

1739. Mrs. ELEANOR EMMETT gave to the Charity School £100., and caused 40*s.* to be annually charged on eight houses adjoining the College, to be given to the poor of the parish by the Churchwardens, on St. Andrew's Day.

1796. Mr. R. BOOTH gave £100. to the Charity School, to be added to the stock in the hands of the Trustees.

1808. Mrs. REBECCA BOOTH, Widow of the above, gave to the Charity School £100. 3 per cent. reduced Bank Annuities, to apply the interest in bread, to be distributed on the 2nd Sunday in the months of January, February, March, October, November, and December, for ever, after morning service, in 20 loaves of the value of 6*d.* each, to such poor families who receive no alms, as the Trustees think proper.

The old gallery over the South aisle was erect-

Digitized by Google

ed in 1765, and in the same year three Gothic windows of that aisle, which had previously retained their original form, were altered to the mode in which the new ones were constructed, and as they appeared before the recent alterations took place; in which year (1765) an additional window, to correspond with the improvements that were then made, was fixed. The tower of this church appears to have received little or no alteration since its erection, previous to the late improvements: it contained, until the year 1773, only five bells, which were of heavy metal, but in that year they were taken down, re-cast, and three others added.

A curious relation is given by a writer in the Gentleman's Magazine, 1747: he says "In 1733, as the Parish Clerk was digging a grave in the church-yard, close to the East end of the chancel wall, he dug up a funeral garland or crown, artificially wrought in fillagree work, with gold and silver wire, in resemblance of myrtle; its leaves were fastened to hoops of larger wire of iron, which were something corroded with rust, but both the gold and silver remained very little different from its original splendour: the inside was also lined with cloth of silver."*

* To this custom, or at least to a similar one, many passages of ancient history very evidently refer. Shakespeare

Digitized by Google

A part of this curious garland, together with a piece of the cloth of silver, the writer of the above account states that he kept by him as a choice relic of antiquity; he further adds that these garlands were anciently carried solemnly by two maids, and hung upon some conspicuous place within the church, in memory of the deceased. Growing out of repute about forty years ago, and being thought by many as very unbecoming decorations for so sacred a place, they were ordered to be taken down, and the inhabitants were strictly forbidden to hang up any more for the future: yet several people, unwilling to forsake an ancient and delightful custom, continued still to make them, and they were carried at the funeral as before; but instead of being left in the church, they were taken to the ground and put upon the coffin over the face of the dead. This, he adds, he had seen done in many places; and from the circumstance of this garland being found in the church-yard, the custom seems not to have been unknown at Bromley.

It is, perhaps, not improper (since the writer is desirous to give all the information he possibly can) to take some notice of the church-yard of this parish, which for neatness is peculiarly noted. Its situation is very good, and the ground in

also seems to have born it in mind in the play of "Hamlet" and others.

Digitized by Google

many places being very hard, and, I believe, entirely free from water, admits of graves being dug to a depth of sixteen and eighteen feet; some of the gravel is of a superior kind, though in parts of the church-yard the earth changes in colour materially.

To observe many of the monumental inscriptions and tombs with which this church-yard abounds, would not only be unnecessary, but would outstretch the intended limits of this work. Two or three, however, seem to demand attention, which (unmindful of the selection being inscribed to caprice) are the following.

On a stone, placed at the Eastern wall of the church, is the following inscription,* which, independently of its being written by so excellent a man as Dr. Hawkesworth, merits much attention in respect of the useful instruction it was no doubt intended to hold forth.

Near this place lies the body of
ELIZABETH MONK,

who departed this life on the 27th day of August, 1753, aged 101. She was the widow of JOHN MONK, late of this parish, blacksmith, her second husband, to whom she had been a wife near fifty years, by whom she had no children,

* The circumstance of this epitaph having been frequently transcribed into different volumes, cannot reasonably be considered as an excuse for its omission in these pages.

Digitized by Google

and of the issue of the first marriage none lived to the second. But virtue would not suffer her to be childless: an infant, to whom and to whose father and mother she had been nurse, (such is the uncertainty of temporal prosperity,) became dependent upon strangers for the necessaries of life: to him she afforded the protection of a mother. This parental charity was returned with filial affection; and she was supported, in the feebleness of age, by him whom she had cherished in the helplessness of infancy. Let it be remembered that there is no station in which industry will not obtain power to be liberal, nor any character on which liberality will not confer honor. She had been long prepared by a simple and unaffected piety for that awful moment, which however delayed, is universally sure. How few are allowed an equal time of probation? How many by their lives appear to presume upon more? To preserve the memory of this person, and yet more to perpetuate the lesson of her life, this stone was erected by voluntary contributions.

Near the above is the following inscription on a plain white stone, which is quoted on account of the remarkable circumstances it contains.

Here lyeth interred the body of
MARTINE FRENCH,

of this parish, with four of his wives and two daughters. He departed this life y^e^ 12th of

Digitized by Google

January, 1661, being aged 61, and his last wife departed y° 13th of the same moneth, leaving behind him one sonne, Martine, and three daughters, Jane, Sarah, and Mary.

Near the premises of Mr. Rawes, on the Southern side of the church-yard, is the handsome monument (inclosed in an iron railing) of Stewart Erskine, Esq., with the following inscription.

Sacred to the memory of
STEWART ERSKINE,
of Bromley Lodge, in the County of Kent, Esq., a lineal descendant of the noble family of Erskine, Earls of Kellie. He departed this life on the 31st day of July, 1826, aged 74 years.

The other principal tombs are those of Mr. Martin, Mr. Menish, Mrs. Taynton, and others.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.*

Philipot says Bromley was given to the church of Rochester by one John Later, a Goldsmith, of London, as appears by the records of the church of Rochester, but Harris very justly observes no such record is to be found.

* Bromley is in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Diocese of Rochester and Deanery of Dartford. *Ireland*, vol. 4, p. 627.

Digitized by Google

The most ancient intimation relative to this church is that it paid nine-pence chrism to the mother church of the Diocese. It has before been stated that Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, half brother to the King, after the Conquest seized on the possessions of the church, and that they were again recovered by Archbishop Lanfranc, in the Solemn Assembly of the County, at Penenden Heath, as appendages of the manor: these were confirmed to the Bishop and church of St. Andrew at Rochester, by Anselm, in 1101, and afterwards by several of his successors in the See of Canterbury.

In the time of King Edward I. this church was valued at 30 marks.

Richard Fryson, Parson of the church of Bromley, sued one Harry Ferrour, in Bromleigh, for the recovery of a messuage which he claimed to belong to the church in free alms, and he recovered seizin of the same by view of the jurors empannelled thereon, 35th Henry VI.

This church was a rectory in 1534, and valued at £39. 12*s.* but was soon after appropriated to the Bishop of Rochester, in which state it still remains; the church being supplied by a Curate appointed by the Bishop. It is not in charge in the King's books.*

* Ireland.

Digitized by Google

On the abolition of episcopacy this parsonage was valued as a part of the possessions of the Bishop of Rochester, Dec. 16, 1650. The return states that the rectory of Bromley had a manor belonging to it, a good mansion house, with a gate house, a large barn of eleven bayes, two small barns, with other buildings and appurtenances, and the glebe land was worth £50. per aunum, and the quit rents 8*s*. 9*d*. yearly, that the tithes were worth £180. yearly, and a small tenement £2. yearly and upwards: all which (the tenants in the manor here having common of pasture in the glebe land, and common mead, which last contained about ten acres, from Lammas-day to Michaelmas-day) were let by John, Bishop of Rochester, from the 10th of February, 1639, for 21 years, at the yearly rent of £61. per annum, and forty quarters of oats; and it was returned that the same, tithes and all, were worth, to be let by the tenant, £183. per annum.

Since the appropriation of the rectory to the Bishoprick of Rochester, it appears to have been usual to grant leases of it; and accordingly we learn from Lysons, that John Younge was lessee in 1646. In 1706 the lease was in the possession of William Emmett, Esq., whose granddaughter brought it to Mr. John Innocent, and it was subsequently carried to George Norman, Esq., by his father's marriage with Mr. Innocent's daughter.

Digitized by Google

It is now in the possession of the Trustees under the will of the late Lord Bishop of Rochester.

At a short distance from the church to the South-west is situate the Rectory House, which now forms a most delightful residence; it is a large and magnificent structure, containing a most spacious entrance-hall, and is now in the possession of Abel Moysey, Esq. The Trustees of the late Bishop have made material improvements in the house, and great alterations on the premises; Mr. Moysey has also added very much to the beauty of this place, by causing a new coach-road to be made to the house.*

LIST OF RECTORS AND CURATES,†

PRESENTED BY THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER, PATRON.

RECTORS.

Richard de Wendover or Vendene, 1226 and 1238.
John Sudbury, in the reign of Henry III.

* I have been informed by Mr. Gould, the Agent to the Trustees, that in pulling down some of the wall at the South side of this building, the materials with which it was composed, were of the same nature as those with which the church appears to have been built; this countenances the idea that the rectory house, or at least part of it, is coeval with the parish church.

† This list is a copy of that in the 8vo edition of Hasted with some slight additions.

Digitized by Google

Abel de Sancto Martino, 1292.
John de Friendsburie, deprived 1329.*
Hugh de Penebregge, collated 1329.
Walter de Henche, died 1360.
William Frysten, 1456.
Wymando, 1465.

CURATES.

James Deyer, 1604.
Stephen Constantine, 1607.
John Preston, 1608.
Jasper Greene.
William Wells, buried September 29th, 1624.
John Hodges, A. B., 1627.
Noah Webb, 1628.
Robert Rainsford, 1630.
Richard Rathbone, 1634.
Thomas Smith, buried September 22nd, 1639.
Robert Autrobus, 1640.
Joseph Jackson, 1647.
Henry Arnold, 1626, ejected 1662.†
Thomas Pike, 1666.
David Barton, 1667.

* This gentleman was deprived by the Bishop of Rochester for disobedience, and the Bishop placed Hugh de Penebregge in his room; notwithstanding which, it is said that Friendsburie thrust him out by force.

† Henry Arnold was among the 200 ministers ejected for nonconformity by the Bartholemew Act.

Digitized by Google

Edmund Lees, 1670.
S. Grascombes, 1681.
George Wilson, 1682.
Thomas Johnson, 1684.
Edward Roman, 1686.
Henry Maundrell, B. D., 1689.*
Samuel Bowles, 1695.
Harrington Bagshaw, 1698.
Joseph Simms, A. M., June, 1739.
Thomas Bagshaw,† 1744, buried Nov. 27, 1787.

* This gentleman wrote the celebrated book of "Travels from Aleppo to Jerusalem."

† The death of this gentleman was long and severely felt by many of the inhabitants of Bromley. How much his life was valued, and beneficent conduct admired, will, in some measure, appear from the following lines, which were written by a gentleman at his decease.

Peace ye foreboding thoughts, what means yon bell?
Its mournful sound says something is not well:
Heaven guard my friend, his precious health restore,
But, ah! he's gone, and BAGSHAW is no more!
What tears now flow, what heavy sighs arise,
What melancholy thoughts, what weeping eyes!
Deep is the wound when on the heart impreat,
A silent pensive gloom can show it best.
See Consolation mournful droops her head,
And Friendship sighs o'er generous Bagshaw dead.
How mourn his friends! Hark! the widow's groans,
The indigent and orphan join their moans,
Relatives, friends, the rich, the poor, the great,
United grieve for worthy Bagshaw's fate.

Digitized by Google

Henry Smith, D. D., 1787. Afternoon Lecturer, John Baker, A. M.
Rev. James King, A. M.
Rev. J. E. Newell, A. M., the present Curate.

To the Curacy is added, at the discretion of the Bishop of Rochester, £38., out of the interest of £2000., left by Bishop Warner to augment poor Benefices within his Diocese.

The Curate also receives £20. out of the Great Tithes.*

Bagshaw is dead! that great and much lov'd name,
Let charity unbounded speak thy fame:
Whilst thy great actions will for ever save
Thy much lov'd memory above the grave:
Since, in reflection, grateful they arise,
Rever'd for ever by the good and wise.
Then cease to mourn, let sighs give place to joy,
Bagshaw yet lives in happier climes on high.
Him, ripe for bliss, kind heav'n with boundless love,
Snatch'd from this earth to dwell in joys above.
Thrice happy they whose character shall shine,
Lamented Bagshaw, good and long as thine.

These lines, it is believed, have never yet appeared in any volume; they reflect great credit upon the writer of them, and are, no doubt, the effusions of a mind fully impressed with the excellence of the man whose character they so faithfully portray.

* Lysons, p. 317.

Digitized by Google

POPULATION, &c.

Lysons states that the register of baptisms commences in the year 1558, that of burials in 1578, and that of marriages in 1575;—that these, deducting the fractions, afford the following comparative state of population.

	Average of baptisms.	Average of funerals.
From the year 1580 to 1589	24	19
1680 to 1689	34	38
1730 to 1739	43	47
1796 to 1794	82	69
1795 to 1799	84	62
1800 to 1807	73	57

In 1665 seven persons are said to have died of the plague.

This parish was noted by Wilson for the longevity of many of its inhabitants, some of whom he describes to have died, during his residence at Bromley, between 80 and 100 years old.

In corroboration of this account, Lysons says that Mary White, widow, died at 100 years of age, and was buried January 9th, 1800; that two persons of 99 years were buried since 1795; and, since that period, three of 92, two of 93, one of 95, one of 96, and one of 98 years of age.*

* And surely in confirmation of the statement made by

Digitized by Google

The population taken in the year 1811,* pursuant to Act of Parliament, gives the following return.

Families 634, employed in the following manner:—207 in agriculture; 213 in trade and manufactures; and the remaining 214 not comprised in the preceding classes: of which 1534 are females, 1431 males, making a total of 2965 persons. Houses 472.

It will be seen that the census is taken at the expiration of every ten years: the following is the return of the population in the year 1821.

Females 1651, males 1496, making a total of 3147 persons. Total number of houses 505.

And again in 1831 the return gives

Females 2120, males 1882, total number 4002. Houses 669.

Thus it will be seen, that by comparing the total number of persons in the parish of Bromley in the year 1811, with that of 1821, there is an increase of 182: increase in houses 33. Also by

Wilson, we may advert to the instance of Elizabeth Monk, whose life, as before said, was extended to the advanced age of 101; and indeed since the above dates there have been several additional instances of longevity in many of the inhabitants of this parish.

* The population might be here dated from a much earlier period, but it is intended to show only the increase in number from the above date to the time at which the last census was taken.

Digitized by Google

comparing the totals of 1821 with those of 1831 we find the following increase:—of persons 855, of which number nearly two-thirds are females.* Increase of houses 164.

CHARITY SCHOOL.

The establishment of a charity school† in this place was effected in the year 1716,‡ its purposes were those of educating and clothing a limited

* By the last comparison it will be seen what a vast increase there is in individuals and houses since the year 1821. In parishes like Bromley there are more females than males; indeed upon a reference to the return of the population in 1831, such is found to be the case in almost every parish in the Division of Bromley; excepting those in which there is little more done beyond farming business.

† The charity schools which have been erected of late years, are the greatest instances of public spirit the age has produced. *Spectator*, No. 294.

‡ The following is an extract from the book belonging to the charity, 11th November, 1716. Whereas profaneness and immorality are in a great measure owing to a gross ignorance of the christian religion, especially among the poorer sort of people, and nothing is more likely to promote the practice of christianity and virtue, than an early and pious education of youth. We, whose names are under written, do hereby agree to pay yearly, at four quarterly payments, during pleasure, the several sums of money over and against our names respectively, subscribed for the setting up a charity school in the

Digitized by Google

number of poor children, whose parents were in necessitous circumstances.

parish of Bromley, in the County of Kent, for teaching poor children to read and write, and for instructing them in the knowledge and practice of the christian religion, as professed and taught by the Church of England, and such other things as are useful and suitable to their condition and capacity.

For these purposes	£.	s.	d.
I, Francis, Bishop of Rochester, subscribe ten pounds per ann. if forty pounds more be subscribed by the inhabitants, or if not, a fifth part of whatever shall be subscribed.....	10	0	0
I, Thomas Blomer, subscribed fforty shillings	2	0	0
I, Harrington Bagshaw subscribe fforty shillings per ann.....	2	0	0
I, Thomas Washer, subscribe fforty shillings per ann.	2	0	0
I, Launcelot Tolson, subscribe three pounds per ann.	3	0	0
I, William Emmett, subscribe three pounds per do..	3	0	0
I, Richard Graham, subscribe fforty shillings per do.	2	0	0
I, Elizabeth Hawgood, subscribe fforty shillings per do	2	0	0
I, Anthº. Ball, subscribe fforty shillings per do.	2	0	0
I, Edwd. Wall, subscribe ten shillings per ditto	0	10	0
I, Henry Bagshaw, subscribe more for a friend, one pound.....	1	0	0
I, Anthony Johnson, subscribe one pound per ann. ..	1	0	0
I, Richard Innocent, subscribe one pound per do....	1	0	0
I, William Waldron, subscribe ten shillings per do...	0	10	0
I, Samuel Oxenbridge, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, John Whitney, subscribe ten shillings per ann....	0	10	0
I, John Cobb, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, Charles Buck, subscribe ten shillings per do.....	0	10	0
I, Dan. French, subscribe one pound per do.....	1	0	0
I, John Hayell, subscribe ten shillings per ann.....	0	10	0

Digitized by Google

It was formerly supported by the interest of £1000. 3 per cents., an annual subscription, and

	£.	s.	d.
I, John Lawson, subscribe one pound per do.	1	0	0
I, William Fuller, subscribe ffour shillings per do. ..	0	4	0
I, John Duny, subscribe ten shillings per do.	0	10	0
I, Thomas Done, subscribe fforty shillings per ann...	2	0	0
I, William Shotten, subscribe ten shillings per ann...	0	10	0
I, James Shott, subscribe one pound per ann.....	1	0	0
I, William King, subscribe one pound per do.	1	0	0
I, Henry Staple, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, John Giles, subscribe ten shillings per ann.....	0	10	0
I, Edwd. Say, subscribe ten shillings per do	0	10	0
I, Martin Woodhams, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, Thos. Lascoe, subscribe ten shillings per ann.	0	10	0
I, Rowland Watson, subscribe five shillings per ann.	0	5	0
I, William Frederick, subscribe ten shillings per ann	0	10	0
I, Edwd. Giles, subscribe ten shillings per ann.....	0	10	0
I, John Hulls, subscribe one pound per do.	1	0	0
I, Joseph Potter, subscribe ten shillings per do.	0	10	0
A person yt. desirous his name may be concealed, yet subscribes fforty shillings	2	0	0
I, John Waldron, subscribe ten shillings per ann....	0	10	0
I, John Weller, subscribe ten shillings per do.....	0	10	0
I, William Kichley, subscribe ten shillings per do. ..	0	10	0
I, Roger Peak, subscribe fforty shillings per do.	2	0	0
I, Aaron Gibbs, subscribe one pound per ann.	1	0	0
Total Sume	£53	9	0

To the above subscriptions is subjoined a list of orders for the better regulation of the said school, all which, together with the long train of subscribers, sufficiently prove the in-

Digitized by Google

by an appeal to the benevolence of the public from the pulpit. The number of children first admitted into this school was twenty, ten of whom were boys, and the remaining ten girls.* . . .

terest that was manifested for the instruction of poor children not only in reading and writing, but also in the cause and practice of christianity. So much would not have been said about this school, nor would the above extract have been transcribed, were it not gratifying to look back on upwards of a hundred years and find such a spirit of benevolence existing: this circumstance, together with the acknowledged usefulness of so excellent an institution, would alone, it is hoped, make it appear desirable to show when the same commenced.

In 1729, in consequence of the death of George Wilson, Esq., then late of Chiselhurst, in whose will this charity was interested, and in consequence also of the death of some of the original subscribers, a meeting took place on the 29th of September, at which it was reported that through the death or removal of several subscribers, the charity school could not be maintained and carried on without the aid of a new subscription; and, at which meeting, subscriptions to the amount of £32. 8s. were raised, to be continued annually during pleasure. At a further meeting, held on the 12th October, 1730, it appeared that all monies received by William Emmett, Esq. and John Freelove, Trustees of the charity school of Bromley, in Kent, from Michaelmas, 1729, to Michaelmas, 1730, amounted to the sum of £49. 2s. 9d., and the total amount of monies paid between those periods was £38. 16s. 4d., leaving in the hands of the Trustees a balance of £10. 6s. 5d.

* In Lysons' Appendix to his "Environs," we learn that there was a school in the workhouse, entirely supported by

Digitized by Google

In the year 1814 the above school was discontinued, and one upon the plan introduced by Dr. Bell was shortly after established, which, after some deliberation, was considered as affording a more expeditious, extensive, and advantageous method of instruction than had theretofore been known.

Time has proved that very beneficial results have been experienced from this introduction, and all parties, it is believed, concerned in the affairs of the school, highly approve of the plan which has been pursued.*

This school, as established in 1814, is supported by voluntary subscriptions and an annual charity sermon. The present number of children educated† in it consists of about one hundred boys, and eighty girls. Mr. Campling has been many

private benefactions, for 40 children, who were taught reading and the church catechism: also that the Bishop of Rochester and a few of the principal inhabitants supported a Sunday school for 25 girls, who were partly clothed and educated.

* Dr. Bell had seen a part of his plan practised at Madras, and no doubt well knew the utility of such an Institution.

† The great advantage derived from the National schools in preparing children for confirmation is so apparent, that those who have already enjoyed the benefit of such a christian education, in a good National school, are found by their examiners much better prepared at the age of thirteen, than most of the adults who have not received the same instruction. *The Rev. Thos. Scott, Note to Lecture* 1, p. 13.

Digitized by Google

years master of the boys, and the education of the girls is entrusted to Mrs. Campling.

The school is situate in the gravel pits between Bromley and Mason's Hill; the rooms are large, and calculated to afford convenience for an assemblage of two hundred children. The residence of the Schoolmaster is adjoining the school.

CHARITY SERMONS AT BROMLEY, KENT.

The first sermon of which we have an explicit account as to date, &c., in aid of the Bromley charity school, is that preached by the Rev. Dr. Bateman. The following extract commences in 1739, and finishes in the year 1831: it will be seen that within the last twenty years the amounts are larger than before that time, and that, from some cause or other, no sermon was preached after the year 1803 until the year 1811.

Date.	By whom preached.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
Sept. 16, 1739,	Rev. Dr. Bateman .	14	0	6
Aug. 17, 1740,	Rev. Mr. Knisman .	16	4	3
Sept. 13, 1741,	Rev. Mr. Dowding .	14	11	10½
Aug. 22, 1742,	Rev. Mr. Harwood .	12	9	0
Oct. 16, 1743,	Rev. Mr. Townley .	14	19	5

Digitized by Google

Date.	By whom presented.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
July 19, 1744,	Rt. Rev. Joseph, Ld. Bp. of Rochester . .	18	1	5
Sept. 29, 1745,	Rev. Mr. Clarke . .	16	9	1
Sept. 28, 1746,	Rev. Mr. Swinden .	18	15	10
Sept. 13, 1747,	Rev. Mr. Harvey . .	14	19	0
Sept. 25, 1748,	Archbishop of Canterbury	28	5	0
Oct. 15, 1749,	Rev. Mr. Pennell . .	19	6	9
1750,	Rev. Mr. A. King . .	21	5	5
Sept. 29, 1751,	Rev. Mr. Anguish . .	15	16	7½
Sept. 29, 1752,	Rev. Mr. Lawry . .	16	15	7½
Sept. 30, 1753,	Rev. Mr. Willis . .	16	18	2
Sept. 29, 1754,	Rev. Mr. Busby . .	16	14	8
Sept. 14, 1755,	Rev. Mr. Bate . . .	17	11	5
1756,	Rev. Dr. More . . .	18	0	9½
Sept. 11, 1757,	Ld. Bp. of Rochester	24	1	0
Oct. 8, 1758,	Rev. Mr. Vede . . .	19	3	6
Sept. 30, 1759,	Rev. Mr. Anguish .	15	9	8
Sept. 14, 1760,	Rev. Mr. Clement .	19	0	6
Sept. 27, 1761,	Rev. Mr. Fawkes . .	14	12	3
Sept. 26, 1762,	Rev. Mr. Acton . . .	17	4	1
Sept. 25, 1763,	Rev. Mr. Brashen .	21	9	10½
Sept. 30, 1764,	Rev. Mr. Nicholas .	19	11	6½
Sept. 22, 1765,	Rev. Mr. Lloyd . . .	18	11	6
Sept. 28, 1766,	Rev. Mr. Moore, North Cray	18	6	9
Sept. 27, 1767,	Rev. Mr. Strong . .	21	19	4

Digitized by Google

Date.	By whom preached.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
Sept. 18, 1768,	Rev. Mr. Wilgus . .	19	14	3
Sept. 24, 1769,	Rev. Mr. Derby . .	19	9	9
Sept. 16, 1770,	Rev. Mr. Forster . .	20	18	7½
Sept. 22, 1771,	Rev. Mr. Woolaston	27	12	7
Sept. 27, 1772,	Rev. Mr. Leathes . .	20	4	8
Sept. 19, 1773,	Rev. Mr. Derby . .	21	19	10
Sept. 11, 1774,	Rev. Mr. Stanesly .	22	18	3
Oct. 8, 1775,	Rev. Mr. Williams .	21	14	3
Sept. 29, 1776,	Lord Bp. of Rochester, Thomas	26	13	6
Sept. 21, 1777,	Rev. Mr. Brett . . .	24	19	6
Sept. 27, 1778,	Rev. Mr. Till, of Hayes	28	19	0
Sept. 26, 1779,	Rev. Dr. Apelthorp, of Croydon	25	8	0
Sept. 17, 1780,	Rev. Mr. Pratt, Vicar of Orpington	23	10	0
Sept. 16, 1781,	Rev. Mr. Green, Curate of Foot's Cray .	24	10	6
Sept. 22, 1782,	Rev. Mr. Fletcher, Curate of Beckenham	26	8	6
1783,	Rev. Dr. King . . .	30	16	0
Sept. 12, 1784,	Rev. Mr. Wiseman, of Dartford	29	12	8¾
Oct. 9, 1785,	Rev. Mr. Grove, of the Tower	30	0	0
Oct. 8, 1786,	Rev. Mr. Mason, Lecturer of Bermondsey	21	6	0

Digitized by Google

Date.	By whom preached.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
Sept. 30, 1787,	Rev. Mr. Rose, Rector of Beckenham . .	40	14	0
Sept. 30, 1788,	Dr. Thomas, Lord Bp. of Rochester . .	42	0	0
Sept. 27, 1789,	Rev. Mr. Partridge, Vicar of Boston . . .	37	5	6
1790,	Rev. John Simons, of St. Paul's Cray . .	37	16	6
1791,	Rev. Dr. Vincent, Master of Westminster School	44	17	4
1792,	No Sermon.			
1793,	Rev. Mr. Costlogon	32	13	4
1794,	Rev. Dr. Horsely, Bp. of Rochester . .	37	14	6
Sept. 26, 1795,	Rev. Mr. Crawford.	28	15	8
Sept. 11, 1796,	Dr. Moore, of St. Paul's	33	7	3
Sept. 10, 1797,	Dr. Milne, of Deptford	37	0	0
Sept. 23, 1798,	Rev. Wm. Rose, of Beckenham	38	14	6
Oct. 20, 1799,	Dr. Ashe, of Eltham	26	9	8
Aug. 31, 1800,	Rev. Mr. Andrew, of the Magdalen	41	9	0
1801,	No Sermon.			
Oct. 10, 1802,	Dr. Dampier, Bp. of Rochester	50	12	7

Digitized by Google

Date.	By whom preached.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
Oct. 9, 1803,	Dr. Dampier, Bp. of Rochester	42	4	7
1804,	No Sermon.			
1805,	No Sermon.			
1806,	No Sermon.			
1807,	No Sermon.			
1808,	No Sermon.			
1809,	No Sermon.			
1810,	No Sermon.			
Oct. 20, 1811,	Rev. Mr. Fraser, of Woolwich.	55	0	0
Nov. 8, 1812,	Rev. C. Burney, of Greenwich	52	12	4
Feb. 1814,	Rev. Archdeacon Pott	44	18	0
May. 29. 1815,	Rev. Wm. Long, Canon of Windsor . . .	69	2	0
Dec. 8, 1816,	Rev. Mr. White, of the Asylum	70	2	3½
1817,	No Sermon.			
Apr. 12, 1818,	Rev. Mr. Cleaver . .	58	8	0
Nov. 21, 1819,	Rev. Mr. White, of the Asylum	61	13	6
1820,	No Sermon.			
Feb. 1821,	Rev. Mr. Bowdler, of Ash	67	4	0
Feb. 10, 1822,	Rev. Mr. R. S. Dodd, of Penshurst	76	7	6
Feb. 23, 1823,	Rev. Archdeacon Pott	60	7	3

Digitized by Google

Date.	By whom preached.	Amount. £.	s.	d.
Dec. 21, 1823,	Dr. Rennell, Dean of Winchester	53	13	1
July, 1824,	Rev. Sir C. F. Farnaby, Bart., Wickham.	70	0	0
July, 1825,	Rev. C. Girdlestone, M. A.	72	6	0
July, 30, 1826,	Rev. Charles Cator .	74	13	0
1827,	Rev. J. Dunn, A. M.	72	10	0
1828,	Ld. Bp. of Rochester	72	10	6
1829,	No Sermon.			
1830,	Dean of Carlisle . .	92	4	6
1831,	Bishop of Carlisle .	84	14	1
		£2767	11	7¾

The total amount of money raised therefore by charity sermons in behalf of this institution, from the year 1739 to the year 1831, is £2767. 11*s*. 7*d*¾. to which have been annually added many contributions, amounting in the year 1831 to about £80.

SAVINGS BANK.

The Provident Institution or Saving Fund, for the town of Bromley and its vicinity, namely for the inhabitants of the parishes of Beckenham,

Digitized by Google

Bexley, Bromley, Chelsfield, Chislehurst, Cudham, Down, Farnborough, Foot's Cray, Hayes, Keston, Knockholt, North Cray, Orpington, St. Mary Cray, St. Paul's Cray, West Wickham,* and for any person resident either in the County of Kent, or in any neighbouring parish in the County of Surrey, was established on the 25th day of March, in the year 1816. The great success it has met with,† will show the value of such an institution to those who are really desirous of preserving to themselves, for old age, that money which, unfortunately, is too frequently exhausted in places of a demoralizing nature.

It is under the immediate direction of a President, Vice-President, any number of Trustees not exceeding twenty, and a managing Committee.

By the 1st resolution, as amended in pursuance of the Act 9th, Geo. IV. it is stated that "This Provident Institution is formed for the purpose of affording a secure investment to the industrious and lower classes of the people, for such sums of money as they may wish to deposit for security."

To show the per centage per annum received by depositors, the 8th resolution is quoted.

"The interest, payable to the depositors, shall

* These 17 parishes constitute the Division of Bromley.

† At the annual audit, on the 20th of November, 1831, the total amount invested was ascertained to be £15,480. 11*s.* 4*d.*

Digitized by Google

be at the rate of £3. 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum, on the amount of their deposits, to be calculated on the 20th day of November in every year, on which day the accounts are to be closed, and the balances transferred to new accounts.

BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.*

In speaking of an institution which has for its object the ameliorating the distresses of human life, the most heartfelt pleasure must surely arise.

Benevolence supplies the poor with the means of subsistance, when they are unable to provide for themselves the common necessaries of life. To relieve the wants of those who are necessitous, to alleviate those sorrows which are produced by poverty, must form the best criterion of a generous disposition. The benevolence that makes its appearance in any particular parish or place should ever be held forth, that it may stimulate the inhabitants of other places to adopt the same most laudable practice.

The institution, first established in 1821 in this place, bears the name of "The Female Friendly Society." The preliminary observations are most

* That is the purest beneficence which clothes the favors of relief in the garb of the rights of independence. *Dr. Aikin.*

Digitized by Google

forcible and striking, and are selected from the writings of Bishop Wilson, Sir William Jones, Sir Thomas Bernard, Dr. Aikin, Mr. Wilberforce, and Mr. Curwen.

Their object is "to impress the higher classes of society with the propriety and policy of patronising this institution, and to convince those for whose benefit it has been more especially instituted, that when they become members of the Bromley Female Friendly Society, they will, at at a very trivial expense, and without any real sacrifice, provide for themselves certain relief and consolation during sickness and infirmity, and a comfortable provision in old age, and be enabled to pass through life without becoming a burden to their friends, and without that degradation which is generally attendant on receiving parochial relief."

It might be considered superfluous, and indeed it would be unnecessary, to quote the whole of the observations prefixed to the articles of this institution; but the truth and beauty of the following paragraphs will more than atone for their insertion in these pages.

"It has ever been deemed a mark of the greatest wisdom for those who lived in prosperity, and are able to endure labour, and follow their several callings and professions, to make some kind of

Digitized by Google

provision for the day of adversity; and it is evident that a man, by uniting in the bonds of society, will most easily accomplish and most effectually insure to himself this important end."

"It is not sufficient to stimulate the poor to industry, unless they can be persuaded to adopt habits of frugality. This is evinced among many different kind of artizans and labourers, who earn large wages, but do not in general possess any better resources in the day of calamity, than those who do not gain half as much money. The season of plenty should then provide for the season of want, and the gains of summer laid by for the rigour of winter.

"Many would try to make a little hoard for sickness or old age, but they know not where to place it without danger or inconvenience. The same cause frequently occasions thoughtless servants to spend all their wages in youth, and in consequence to pass their old age in a workhouse; a sad reverse from the indulgence of a gentleman's family to which they have been habituated."

"Many instances indeed have occurred, that, for want of a place of security for their money, the poor have lost their hard-earned savings, by lending them to some artful or distressed person, who has persuaded them they will be safe in his hands."

Digitized by Google

"In proportion as the establishment of Friendly Societies is extended, it becomes of material consequence both to the members that compose them, and to the community at large, that they should be established on permanent principles; and that, *above all*, the calculations upon which their funds are grounded should not be fallacious. The distress and disappointment occasioned by the bankruptcy of one of these societies, are sensibly felt both by the poor and their respective parishes, throughout a large district, whilst the happy effects by their permanent prosperity, extend themselves, at least, in an equal degree."

The Female Friendly Society is under the sole management of four Trustees and a Committee of eight ladies, (to be elected by a majority of the members,) who, from benevolent motives, and without view to profit or advantage, voluntarily undertake the same.*

The tables, showing the amount of deposits and payments, are guided by a most equitable calculation.

* A peculiar gratification must be felt whenever we see those in circumstances of affluence alleviating the sorrows of their poorer brethren, and it is to be hoped there is no cause to doubt that the beneficent conduct of the ladies connected with this institution, is justly appreciated by the whole of the members.

Digitized by Google

THE COLLEGE.

Bromley College, a charity as unexampled at the time of its institution, as it has been ever since, was founded by Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, who died in 1666, and by will directed the foundation of a hospital or college, for twenty widows of loyal and orthodox clergymen, and a chaplain. To accomplish this noble, generous, and ever-to-be-remembered design, he directed his executors, Sir Orlando Bridgman, Lord Keeper, Sir Philip Warwick, Knight, Dr. Thomas Pearce, and Dr. John Lee, to raise, out of his personal estate, a building proper for this purpose, and charged his manor of Swayton with an annual payment of £450. for their maintenance, of which sum each widow was to receive £20. yearly, the remaining £50. being intended as a stipend for the Chaplain, who was always to be appointed from Magdalen College, Oxford, where the Bishop himself had been educated.*

* There is a great similarity in the structure of Bromley College with Morden College, situate on Blackheath. The latter was founded by Sir John Morden, of Wrickleamarsh, a Turkey merchant, who amassed a large fortune at Aleppo, and who was the first Treasurer of Bromley College, 1696. Some years previous to his death he erected this building in

Digitized by Google

The chapel of this College is extremely neat but very small. It was erected with the old foundation. On the right hand or South side of the wall, is fixed the portrait of Bishop Warner, and on the other side a half length portrait of Bishop Pearce, under which is a small tablet with the following inscription.

ZACHARY PEARCE, D. D. Bishop of Rochester,
who, in 1768,
resigned the Deanery of Westminster,
and in 1774 (Æt. 84)
became a benefactor to this College.

In order that the several bequests to this institution may clearly appear, it is thought proper to give the following list of venerable benefactors, whose names appear on four large tablets affixed on the walls of the interior of the chapel.

ON THE FIRST TABLET.

	£.	s.	d.
1757. Mrs. SWIFT, of Bromley, by her will, gave for repairs . .	10	0	0

form of a College, not far from his own habitation, for the support of poor honest decayed merchants, for whose relief there had previously existed no institution of the kind: this College may now, from its situation and ample endowment, be said to rank as one of the most comfortable retreats for the aged and unfortunate, that any charity in this kingdom affords.

Digitized by Google

	£.	s.	d.
1764. Mrs. WOLFE, of Blackheath, by her will, for ditto	500	0	0
1767. The Rev. Mr. ALEXANDER JEPHSON, Rector of Craike, in the Diocese of Durham, by his will, gave for ditto . .	200	0	0
1768. Dr. THOMAS SECKER, Archbishop of Canterbury, by his will, for ditto	500	0	0
1773. The Countess Dowager GOWER, Executrix to her father the late Earl of Thanet . . .	500	0	0
1770. The Rev. Mr. W. HETHERINGTON, of North Cray, in his life-time, gave for the benefit of the widows in Old SS. Anns.	2000	0	0
1774. Dr. PEARCE, Bishop of Rochester, gave for augmenting the yearly salaries of the widows and chaplain in Old SS. Anns.	5000	0	0

ON THE SECOND TABLET.

1666. Dr. JOHN WARNER, Bishop of Rochester, founded it, and paid by his Executors for the building	8500	0	0

Digitized by Google

		£.	s.	d.
	He gave, by his will, for the support of the chaplain and widows the yearly sum of . .	450	0	0
	His Heir gave for repairs the yearly sum of	5	0	0
	The Lord Keeper, Sir ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN, gave for ditto the yearly sum of	10	0	0
1704.	Dr. THOMAS PLUME,* Archdeacon of Rochester, by his will, gave for ditto	100	0	0

* This gentleman devised by will about £18000., to be laid out in lands for the maintenance of a professor of astronomy and experimental philosophy in Cambridge; and bequeathed Stone Castle, with the estate belonging thereto, and a farm at Tudely in this County to charitable uses, in the feoffees of which it now remains. The purposes of this trust were for the preaching of twenty-six sermons in the summer half year, every Wednesday, alternately at Dartford and Gravesend; and also for the augmentation of such poor parsonages and vicarages, within the diocese of Rochester, as were under £60. per annum: but it was provided that no living should have above £10. in one year.

Stone Castle is an ancient castellated seat in the parish of Stone, standing on an eminence a small distance Southward from the high road from London to Dover. It had once the reputation of a manor, as appears by the Book of Aid, in the 20th of Edward III., when Sir John de Northwood answered for the manor of Stone Castle, as half a knight's fee, which Henry de Northwood before held in Stone, of the Bishop of Rochester. *Ireland.*

Digitized by Google

		£.	s.	d.
1716.	Dr. Thomas Tennison, Archbishop of Canterbury, by his will, gave for ditto	52	10	0
1737.	Mr. Clark, Archdeacon of Norwich, gave for ditto . .	5	5	0
1757.	— Wilcocks, Esq., for building the East wall of the meadow	112	0	0
	ON THE THIRD TABLET.			
1782.	Mr. William Pearce, Brother of Bishop Pearce, left after the decease of his great nephew and great neice (without issue)	12000	0	0
	For building and endowing 10 new houses, and per annum of the interest for the chaplain .	20	0	0
1784.	Mrs. Rogers, by will, for repairs	120	0	0
1787.	The Rev. Mr. Bagshaw left in the 3 per cents. to increase the salary of the chaplain . .	200	0	0
1788.	Mrs. Helen Bettenson, by will, for building and endowing 10 new houses* . . .	10000	0	0

* These ten houses, together with the ten mentioned in

Digitized by Google

		£.	s.	d.
1793.	Dr. JOHN THOMAS, late Bishop of Rochester, left . . . to be divided among the widows of the old foundation then resident, and £300. to be funded, and the interest applied for repairs.	100	0	0
	ON THE FOURTH TABLET.			
1821.	Mrs. GOODWIN, of Huddlesdon, by will	500	0	0
	Miss JANE BROOKE, of Norwich, for the chapel and supplying the College with water*	230	0	0
1822.	Mrs. CARPENTER, for bible and prayer book	10	0	0
1823.	Dr. WALKER KING, Bishop of Rochester, gave £3000. in the 3 per cent. Consols, that the interest might pay 3 widows, out-pensioners, £30. a year each	3000	0	0

the bequest of Mr. William Pearce, constitute what is usually called the "New College."

* Over the door at the entrance of the College, on the South and Eastern sides, appear the two following lines, in raised gilt letters, in reference to the above bequest.

"While round these College walls this water goes,
"Forget we not the BROOKE from whence it flows."

Digitized by Google

		£	s.	d.
1824.	Mrs. Rose, (formerly a widow of this College,) by her will, to the widows of Bromley College	8000	0	0
1827.	Magdalen College, Oxford, for the College grove	20	0	0
1829.	George Norman, Esq. (late Treasurer of the College 42 years) gave in his life . . .	500	0	0

Before several of the above mentioned bequests were made, the sums received by the widows were found to be inadequate to their support; but the numerous contributions of large amounts have made material alterations, both as regards the comfort and respectability of the inhabitants: the liberality of many of the benefactors, has caused this institution to possess as many privileges as any of its nature in the kingdom.

In the year 1770, Mrs. Lydia Street gave by will £500. to this College, which Mrs. Robinson, Executrix to Mrs. Street, refused to pay, it being void in law.

The income which each widow now receives from the College is £38. per annum.

Formerly the widows did not attend the chapel on Sundays, but were provided with accommoda-

Digitized by Google

tion in the parish church; but when the salary of the Chaplain was augmented, the Trustees directed that divine service should be performed in the College chapel every sabbath.

This chapel was originally intended to contain but twenty widows, it is, however, sufficiently large to accommodate forty.

When the College consisted of thirty widows only, upon an average of many years, about two vacancies occurred annually; and the Trustees generally met once, sometimes twice in the year, to fill them up. In 1805, when the ten new houses were filled, in order to obviate the necessity of calling meetings too frequently, and when it might be inconvenient to some of the Trustees to attend, they made it a rule to meet only when there should be three vacancies, and ordered the quarterly payments of the vacant houses to be appropriated to repairs; a regulation which, from the then inadequacy of the funds to that end, has proved of the most essential service to the institution, and no doubt of great advantage and comfort to the widows; though occasionally productive of some difficulty to those who are anxiously waiting their admission into the College.

By an Act of Parliament passed in the 30th year of the reign of George the II., this College was exempted from payment of taxes.

Digitized by Google

The funds of this institution were originally vested in twelve Trustees: namely, seven official and five elective. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishops of London and Rochester, Dean of St. Paul's, Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Archdeacon of Rochester, and Chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester, are Trustees, *ex officio;* the other five are elected as often as a vacancy happens; and it has been deemed advisable that two of the five should be persons eminent in the law.

The Trustees, by Act of Parliament, have full power and authority to make such orders and rules for the well government of the College, and the due execution of their trust, as to the major part of them shall appear convenient and proper.

The present Chaplain is the Rev. Thomas Scott; this gentleman is also ~~Vicar~~ Rector of Isleham, in Cambridgeshire.

Bromley College should not be passed over without, at least, briefly noticing the improvements with which it is beautified. It may be said, and justly so, that this noble foundation is deserving of peculiar observance, not only from the circumstance of its being the first and most extensive institution of its kind, but also on account of the natural grandeur that surrounds it. Here the taste is delighted by all that can excite admiration; and in the summer season the scene is

Digitized by Google

truly beautiful, which attracts the notice of many visitors.*

The elm trees which formerly nearly surrounded the whole of this immense building, could be seen at a great distance: but in the year 1828, by an order of the Trustees, they were cut down, because they rendered the College damp, dark, and dangerous.†

The Rev. Mr. Scott‡ has effected many improvements, both as regards the comfort and residence of the widows, of which they cannot but be sensible.

In the year 1830, the Trustees of this College purchased of Mr. William Makepeace, for charitable purposes, a messuage and garden, in the parish of Bromley, in the County of Kent, for a sum of money, part of which was raised by voluntary contributions of persons who patronised this College.

This messuage and premises are those now in the occupation of Mr. Godfrey Stidolph.§

* I may be blamed for having seemingly spoken of premises throughout these pages with too much praise, but I must be allowed to speak of any particular place as I find it.

† The College, with the groves, occupy about four acres of ground.

‡ This gentleman is author of an excellent volume of Lectures, published in 1818.

§ The Trustees purchased the above premises under the following circumstances:—

Digitized by Google

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MANOR OF SUNDRIDGE.

Sundridge is a manor and seat situate towards the North-east of this parish, among the woods, formerly the residence of a noted family of the name of Blund or Blound, anciently lords of

The congregation assembling at Bethel Chapel in this town found that the building, on account of its being so small, was unable to afford accomodation to those who were desirous of assembling there, and had long been in quest of a desirable situation for the erection of a new chapel.

The above premises, it was ascertained, were to be sold: an application was made to Mr. Makepeace, by a gentleman of Bromley, and a treaty for the purchase was actually entered into. Upon Mr. Stidolph being made acquainted with the circumstance, he communicated his surprise to the Rev. Mr. Scott, who, together with John Wells, Esq. the present Treasurer, promptly took such steps, as afterwards caused a completion of the sale to the Trustees, and continued Mr. Stidolph in the possession of the premises, in the improvement of which he had expended a large sum of money, together with much time.

Great inconvenience must have been felt by the widows of the College, particularly those residing on the Eastern side, as the ground was intended by those who first treated for the purchase for the purpose of building; the ladies moreover would have been deprived of the sight of this beautiful garden, which is contiguous to the College, and tends to render the latter peculiarly desirable.

Digitized by Google

Guisnes, in France; one of them had three sons who came to England with the Conqueror; and of these one returned to France, and the other two, Sir Robert and Sir William, remained in England; the former settling in Suffolk, and the latter in Lincolnshire. From these the several families of Blount in this kingdom are descended: of a younger branch was Peter le Blund, owner of this place in the reign of Henry III., in the 39th year of which prince he was made Constable of the Tower of London. His descendant Edward le Blund, was possessed of Sundridge, 20th Edward III., 1345, as appeared by the Book of Aids, for levying 40s. on every knight's fee throughout the kingdom, for making the Black Prince a knight, in which Edward le Blund was assessed for one fourth of a knight's fee, which John le Blund held in Bromley of the Bishop of Rochester; soon after which the family ended in a female heir, who carried this seat in marriage to the Willoughby's; from which name, after some years, it passed, by purchase, to Booth, whose descendant, William Booth, was found by inquisition to die seized of the manor* of Sun-

* A manor consists of a grant of land previous to the reign of Edward I., either from the king, or the lord of the adjoining manor, to which is annexed a certain degree of jurisdiction as Court Baron, &c. In the case of Sandridge and Simpsons,

Digitized by Google

dridge, in the 1st Henry VII., held of the Bishop of Rochester by knight's service, and by the service of making suit at the court of the palace aforesaid, and that Robert Booth was his son and heir; in whose descendants Sundridge continued till Sith Booth, Esq., dying without male issue, one of his daughters and co-heirs carried it in marriage to Thomas Bettenham, of Shurland in Pluckey, Esq., whose great grandson, Stephen Bettenham, of Bromley, gent., gave it, in marriage with his daughter Anne, to Robert Pynsent, third son of John Pynsent, of Chudleigh, Devon, and Prothonotary of the Common Pleas; he died at Sundridge Dec. 30, 1679,* Ætat 74, without issue, and was buried in the chancel of the church. This gentleman was succeeded in the estate and seat by Thomas Washer, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., and Barrister at Law, who dying in 1749 without male issue, Mary, his only daughter and heiress, carried it in marriage to William Wilson, Esq., High Sheriff of the County in 1766, who died possessed of it in August, 1776. In 1792, the manor was sold by his grandson, William Wilson, Esq. to Edward G. Lind, Esq.; and in 1796

the lands were granted by the Bishop of Rochester, to whom the lords owed suit and service, and were consequently bound to attend in courts.

* Vide page 69.

Digitized by Google

purchased by the late Sir Claude Scott, Bart., deceased, who pulled down the old house, and erected near its site a handsome mansion for his own residence.

Sundridge has many local beauties, which every person who has seen it must admit, but from its retired situation does not afford so delightful a view of the distant scenery which Bickley and other seats command. The architecture of the building is superb; and it is, perhaps, one of the most magnificent structures in the County of Kent. The grounds have been laid out and are kept in the best possible condition; the natural scenery, though limited, is extremely grand. The park is spacious and decorated with all the variety of nature; from the centre of the park is seen the rising ground of Chislehurst, from which a path leads to the town of Bromley. In the year 1823, the path which formerly led into this park, was, by an order of Magistrates, stopped up, and one more convenient to the public granted.

SIMPSONS.

Simpsons is an estate in this parish, formerly of much greater account than at present; it was

Digitized by Google

anciently owned by the family of the Bankwells, who resided at Lee, in the neighbourhood. In the 31st of Edward I., 1302, John de Banque, was possessed of this estate, and William de Banquel died possessed of it in the 20th of Edward III., and left Thomas his heir; he died in the 35th year of the same reign holding a great quantity of land in the neighbourhood, and left three sons, John, William, and Robert Bankwell, who became his heirs in gavelkind,* and on a division of their inheritance, William, the second son, became entitled to his father's estate in Bromley. On the extinction of that family, the property passed to that of the Clarkes, one of whom, in the reign of Henry V., erected a strong but small building of stone, with an embattled wall, and encircled it with a deep moat. In the reign of Henry VI. it was possessed by John Simpson, who purchased it, and resided here, and having much improved the mansion it acquired his name, by which it has ever since been called.

In the 11th of Edward IV., Robert Simpson died possessed of this seat, and his descendant

* By gavelkind is meant an equal distribution of landed property among all the sons of a family.

Gavelkind, and an absolute exemption from vassalage, were the two principal laws and usages retained by the Normans at the Conquest.

Digitized by Google

Nicholas, alienated Simpsons to Alexander Bassett, who, in the reign of Henry VIII., conveyed it by sale to Sir Humphrey Style, of Langley, this estate being then held in socage.*

His descendant, Humphrey, dying without male issue, his only daughter and heiress carried this estate in marriage to Sir John Elwill, Bart., who dying in 1727 without issue, Edward, his brother, succeeded him, and in 1732 conveyed Simpsons to Hugh Raymond, of Great Suling, in Essex. He settled it on his only son, Jones Raymond, Esq., in tail general, with remainder to his daughter Amy, married to Peter Burrell, Esq., and her issue male. On the death of Jones Raymond in 1778, without issue, Peter Burrell, Esq., of Beckenham, in right of his wife, possessed it; after the death of whose widow, it descended to her grandson, Sir Peter Burrell, Knt., afterwards Lord Gwydir. Simpsons indeed appears a time-stricken mansion. The rooms in the house are exceedingly large and lofty, and the staircases very wide.

The present building is formed of brick and timber, and appears to have been erected on a part of the foundation of the ancient structure,

* Socage is an ancient tenure by which lands were held on condition of ploughing the lord's land, and doing the operations of husbandry without charge.

Digitized by Google

probably about the sixteenth century. Upon examination there appears but little doubt that it was designed for the residence of a gentleman of that period. The fire-place in the hall, which is very large, still remains, and probably a greater portion of the ancient door-ways, which have been rendered almost shapeless by the alterations occasioned by its conversion into a farm-house. As such it was occupied by Mr. Jeremiah Ringer for upwards of fifty years; it has since been in the possession of the late Robert Veitch, Esq., and occupied by his gardener. It is now, however, wholly untenantable, and scarcely anything in the shape of repairs could restore it to a residence of safety: from a partial neglect, and on account of their long standing, the walls are fast mouldering away.

There is no doubt that the deep moat extended close to the walls of the ancient castellated building on the North, East, and South sides, and that the angles were secured by a strong buttress projecting into the moat. The whole extent of the foundation of the Eastern wall, together with the two buttresses which still remain perfect, are supposed to be about thirty-three or thirty-four yards in length, and the breadth of the building about thirteen or fourteen yards. These founda-

Digitized by Google

tions are built of large flints intermixed with stone, and cemented with strong lime mortar. It is highly probable that the building was square, and entered by a drawbridge on the Western side, and, from the circumstance of the wall not extending to the verge of the moat, had a small terrace on the East.

The apartments inhabited by the Lord of the domain probably either lined the outer wall, and were lighted from a small court in the centre, or consisted of an isolated building within the walls, as was frequently the case in castellated mansions, and perhaps the best plan that could be adopted for the purposes of defence.

The ancient road leading to Simpsons, lay through a part of what is now the pleasure grounds of Miss Veitch.

There is a path, leading from the high road on the right hand side near the seat of Mrs. Erskine, to Pickhurst Green and Hayes, through the lands of Mr. Cranfield and others.

PREMISES OF LESSER NOTE.

By the book of knights' fee, it appears in 9th Edward I., Simon de Cray held half a knight's

Digitized by Google

fee in Brumlaige of the heirs of William de Pincernd, alias Le Bottiler, of the Bishop of Rochester; that the heirs of John de Braybold, held a sixth part of a knight's fee in Bromley, and Richard Fitz Jeffery held eight parts in Bromley.

William de Latimer died in the 1st Edward III., 1326, possessed of land in Bromleigh; his son, then twenty-six years of age, who, during his homage, had livery of land of his inheritance, and in the 3rd year of the same reign obtained a charter of free warren for ever, of all his land in the Counties of Bedford, Norfolk, and this place; in which he had the king's pardon for having purchased the office of Coinage, in the Tower of London and City of Canterbury, of Maud, the widow of John de Botecourt, who held it, by inheritance of the king, in *capite*.

PLAISTOW.

Little more remains to be said of Plaistow than its being part of the parish of Bromley, and noted as the residence of many respectable inhabitants. It is situate on the Northern side of Bromley, about three quarters of a mile from the town.

Plaistow Lodge, the seat of Walter Boyd, Esq., at the Western extremity of this hamlet, is its

Digitized by Google

principal ornament, and which, from the tasteful grounds and numerous improvements since it has been in the possession of the present owner, is rendered one of the most elegant seats in the County. There is an exceeding neat lodge to these premises, situate on the top of Bromley Hill on the London Road.

This mansion was some years ago the residence of Peter Isaac Thelluson, Esq., a gentleman of extensive property, who died in the year 1797, and by will vested the whole of his immense fortune into the hands of trustees, with directions to apply the accumulating interest to the purchase of land, the whole of which, in case of failure of male issue from his immediate descendants, after three generations, he directed to be sold, and the produce of the sale to be applied, under the direction of Parliament, to enable the sinking fund to liquidate the national debt.*

In 1810 this seat was occupied by Thomas Maltby, Esq., under a lease from the Trustees to Mr. Thelluson's will; and in 1812 purchased by the late resident the Honourable Hugh Lindsay, the brother of Lord Balcarras and Lady Hardwick; since which it has been purchased and occupied by Walter Boyd, Esq.

* Appendix to Lysons.

Digitized by Google

Plaistow contains about fifty-six houses, many of which are very substantially built. From this place there is a road leading to Lee and Blackheath.

FREELANDS.

Freelands is the property of Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., and the residence of Charles Pott, Esq. The front of this mansion is extremely neat, and commands an extensive view over the neighbourhood of Bromley and other parishes; it is situate on the Eastern extremity of the parish between Plaistow and Wigmore. About the year 1700 it was the property of John Whalley, Esq.; afterwards it came into the possession of Robert Nettleton, Esq., Governor of the Russia Company. The lease which was granted to the latter gentleman, passed through the hands of Mr. Wells and Mr. Adair, into those of Thomas Raikes, Esq., once Governor of the Bank. In 1810 it was in the possession of Charles Browne, Esq., who, upon the death of Mrs. Browne, left it: and previous to its being occupied by the present tenant, Mr. Potts, was the residence of Mrs. Moore, widow of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Digitized by Google

WIGMORE.

Wigmore* is a part of the parish of Bromley, and contains about forty houses; it is situate about one mile Eastward from the town. At this place there are many very pleasant summer residences, among which Bickley may be reckoned the most elegant. This structure occupies a noble eminence, and was erected in 1780 by John Wells, Esq.; but material alterations and additions were made by his son and successor, William Wells, Esq., who rendered the whole a most commodious residence. The park, though not extensive, derives considerable beauties from the inequalities and extent of view, the sight of which, from the top of Chislehurst Hill, is truly picturesque. It adjoins the grounds of Camden Place, once the residence of Prince Esterhazy, and boasts of the exuberant scenery for which that park is so justly celebrated; the gardens are extensive, wherein was erected a few years ago a fine grapery. The present proprietor† is son of the late William Wells, Esq., and served the office of Sheriff for the County, in 1812, and was returned Repre-

* Written as frequently "Widmore."

† John Wells, Esq., has indefatigably discharged the arduous duties of a Magistrate in the Division of Bromley, for the last twenty-one years.

Digitized by Google

sentative in parliament for Maidstone. His youngest daughter married James Brown, Esq., M. P. for Mayo, in Ireland.

The estate of Bickley was many years ago in the possession of Thomas Jukes, Esq.,* who had a hunting seat, and kept a very fine pack of hounds, which were hunted under the famous Potter.

A few years ago at a short distance from Bickley, on the right hand side of the road† leading from Bromley to Chislehurst, stood the residence of the Hon. John Olimus, (brother of Lord Carhampton and the Duchess of Cumberland,) one of the Commissioners of Excise, held under a lease from George Farrant, Esq., Barrister at Law, and grandson of Godfrey Lee Farrant, Esq., late Registrar of the Court of Admiralty, by whom it was considerably enlarged. After the death of Mr. Farrant, it was successively inhabited by Joseph Beete, Esq. and Sir Samuel Scott, Bart., the present owner of Sundridge. This seat, however, has some time since been taken down.

Shawfield Lodge is a handsome seat, built be-

* A great part of what is now Mr. Wells's pleasure ground, at the time Mr. Jukes possessed the estate, was covered with bushes and furze, used as a cover for foxes, &c.

† This road is that which formerly passed the "Bird in hand" inn, but which, some few years ago, was stopped up according to law.

Digitized by Google

tween forty and fifty years ago by John Harrison, Esq. On his death, in 1814, it became the property of his brother, Andrew Harrison, Esq.; afterwards it was occupied by the Rev. William Kindleside; and is now the residence of Godfrey Meynell, Esq. Andrew Harrison, Esq. and Mrs. Jukes both resided in an adjoining mansion, which has since been taken down. At a short distance is the residence of George Telford, Esq., formerly occupied by Mrs. King, sister to General Hyde, who left it, at his decease, to a son of the Rev. Mr. Woolaston, of Chislehurst, from whom it was purchased by John Wells, Esq., who has granted a lease to the present proprietor.

Attached to this estate is a remarkable ancient edifice, with a handsome entrance, bearing the initials A. B. and the date 1599 in front. Some suppose, and it is probable, that at that period it was the chief mansion in this part of the parish; but all tradition of the name of the family by whom it was built or originally occupied it is said has long since ceased. Some there are who further suppose that after it had fallen into decay, so as to be no longer fit for the residence of a gentleman, the neighbouring mansion was built on the estate, and the present let to poor families. On the green is a small chapel belonging to the Methodists, erected between fifty and sixty years ago: the congregation is but small, and the

Digitized by Google

public worship is chiefly conducted by the local preachers in connexion with the followers of the late Mr. John Wesley.

In Wigmore Lane are the pleasant residences of Simon Cock, Esq.; Mathew Boyd, Esq.; Beechfield, the delightful residence of William Roberts, Esq.; and the premises late in the occupation of — Whitmore, Esq.

In the year 1825, the old road from Bromley to Chislehurst, which directed its course through what now forms part of the land belonging to Bickley, was, by an order of Justices, stopped up, and a new road,* saving a considerable distance to travellers, opened.

This improvement deserves much notice, though perhaps only those persons who frequently had occasion to travel on the old road can sufficiently appreciate the great advantage the public derive from this alteration.

FARWIG PLACE.

Farwig Place, deriving its name from the gentleman who first built upon this spot, is deserving

* This improvement must have been a very expensive one, as the new line of road passed through the woods of John Wells, Esq. for a considerable distance. The circuitous route of the old road by night was certainly anything but safe.

Digitized by Google

much notice on account of its improvement to the parish. It is situate on the Northern side of the College, between that building and Plaistow, and is chiefly the residence of respectable mechanics. The ground on which the row of houses is erected, on the right hand side immediately leading out of the College field,* was formerly a garden in the possession of an inhabitant of the town, and continued as such till the purchase of the premises by Mr. Farwig. The whole of the buildings at this place have been erected within the last nine years, before which time not even a cottage was to be seen: the situation is very cold, and during the inclement season of the year cannot be very desirable, but in the summer, the inhabitants, no doubt, enjoy the pleasure of a scene unknown to many who reside in the town.

The houses are chiefly held by leases for a term of years under Mr. Farwig; this gentleman, however, and his wife are both dead, and the whole of the property, on account of the owner dying intestate, and the minority of the Heir at Law, is now in Chancery, which Court is in receipt of the rent.

There are also some houses here the property of — Rose and others.

* Part of which is taken and cultivated by the parish, for the purpose of employing the labouring poor.

Digitized by Google

MARTIN'S HILL.

Martin's Hill is situate near the church on the Western side, and is part of the glebe of this parish.

From this spot may be seen prospects of the surrounding country such as cannot be surpassed within several miles of the place. There are, perhaps, few spots more worthy the visits of the inhabitants of Bromley than this. The scenery which from this place is presented to the eye is peculiarly grand, and is diversified by the contrasted dwellings of magnificence and poverty.

From this spot may be seen the rising grounds of Hayes and Keston, while in the opposite direction the eye is carried over the hills of Norwood and other parts of Surrey. On almost every side may be enjoyed a scene which cannot fail to excite the interest of every beholder: the adjacent woods are extremely majestic in appearance, while the curious winding of the river Ravensbourne, which runs through the meadows below, combines to complete this choice spot of nature.

Near this hill there are many residences deserving notice, viz. those of Mr. Palmer, Mrs. Latter, Mr. Bilke, and others. The house lately

Digitized by Google

erected by Mr. Gould, at the entrance of the hill, stands in a most delightful situation for a summer residence.

CONCLUSION.

The object of the Writer being now completed, he begs to conclude these pages with a few essential remarks

Before a work, which professes to contain the history of any particular place, can be fairly spoken of, one chief thing is necessary, viz. *examination:* indeed a *fair* examination is necessary in every work, before it is either justified or spoken of in terms of censure.

The aim of the Writer has been not to produce a composition to delight the lovers of novelty, for in this his expectations must have been greatly disappointed, but to describe and exhibit facts in an impartial manner.

Under whatever circumstances these pages may meet the public eye, however unprofitable and uninteresting they may be considered, the Writer will have one consolation, which is not inconsiderable, in recollecting that in this attempt he has complied with the request of persons whom to oblige is pleasure.

Digitized by Google

In sending these pages into the world he does not forget that the history of Bromley may be seen in books already published, namely in the "History of Kent" by Hasted, Ireland, and others; but though the accounts given in these are certainly correct as far as can reasonably be expected, yet the publisher of a work like the "History of Kent" cannot be supposed to enter into a minute description of any particular place; so that while we gain from large works a brief account of an entire County, we are left to a great extent ignorant of many circumstances connected with each individual town.

The title of the foregoing pages imports "The History, Antiquities, Improvements, &c. of the Parish of Bromley, Kent," which, as far as public and private documents together with other information may be relied upon, have been faithfully narrated in the present work.

If by any it should be thought that only a superficial account of Bromley and its antiquities has been given, the Writer can only say that every exertion has been made to render as full and explicit an account of them as possible. The immediate neighbourhood of Bromley, it is true, on account of its pleasant situation and other advantages it possesses, might be spoken of in more laudatory terms than those here made use of; but

Digitized by Google

it may not, perhaps, be unnecessary to observe, that had the Writer indulged himself in too lengthy a description of it, he would most likely have deviated from the course, which in a work like this ought to be pursued, and which would have called forth marks of disapprobation. These, however, he trusts he has carefully avoided; but, should it be considered that he has dwelt too long upon some particular parts, and not sufficiently on others, he can only say that his aim has been the faithfully recording the truth as far as it could be obtained: but he would avail himself of an observation not more trite than true, that no work can be expected entirely free from error.

The Writer feels himself much indebted, and begs leave to express his warmest thanks, to those gentlemen who have very kindly and readily furnished him with assistance and information to the completion of this work. It may receive the smiles of some, the frowns of others; and since the latter are common to the most elaborate productions, it would be in vain for the Writer to expect general approbation for this.

FINIS.

Harriet Richardson, Printer, Stockwell Street, Greenwich.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

This book should be returned to the Library on or before the last date stamped below.

A fine of five cents a day is incurred by retaining it beyond the specified time.

Please return promptly.

MAR 7 1913 ILL
468525

Digitized by Google

Br 5168.254.2
The history, antiquities, improveme
Widener Library 004892810
3 2044 081 213 662